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THE  
*Topsfield*  
HISTORICAL  
COLLECTIONS

OF THE  
CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD  
TOPSFIELD  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

V. 1-2

VOL. I.

—:—

1895.-96

TOPSFIELD, MASS.:  
Published by the Society.  
1895.



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BAPTISMAL RECORDS

OF THE

CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD

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COMMUNICATED BY  
GEO. FRS. DOW.

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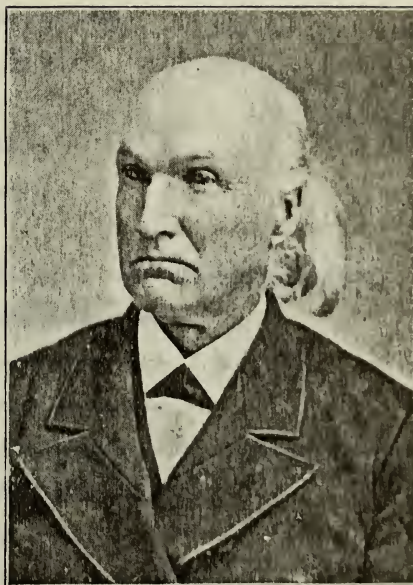
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AYLWARD & HUNTRESS, PRINTERS.  
The Salem Press.  
1895.

INTRODUCTION

THE HISTORY OF THE



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JOHN HOOD GOULD.





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## CONTENTS.

List of officers for the year 1895,	IV
Constitution of the Society,	V
List of membership,	VI
Report of the Secretary,	VII
Report of the Treasurer,	IX
List of Donations,	IX
Introductory remarks, Jan. 4, 1895 — Justin Allen, M.D.,	1
Anne Bradstreet—Metta Bradstreet,	3
Burning of Rea's Tavern, 1836—Mrs. T. K. Leach,	7
Topsfield Minute-men at Lexington,	10
William Towne and his daughters—Mrs. Abbie W. Towne,	12
Settlement of Topsfield—Geo. Frs. Dow,	15
Petition from Ipswich farmers in 1758,	18
Topsfield Warren Blues—Benj. J. Balch,	19
Trial of Elizabeth P. Bradstreet—Mrs. Theo. W. Haven,	30
Sketch of Dr. Nehemiah Cleaveland—Charles J. Peabody,	35
Francis Peabody's grist mill—John H. Towne,	39
Topsfield Baptismal Records 1727-1779—Geo. Frs. Dow,	Appendix.



# Topsfield Historical Society.

## Officers for the year 1895.

President,

JUSTIN ALLEN, M.D.

Vice-President,

CHARLES J. PEABODY.

Secretary,

GEO. FRIS. DOW.

Treasurer,

GEO. FRIS. DOW.

Curator,

GEO. FRIS. DOW.

### Executive Committee:

JUSTIN ALLEN, M.D., *ex-officio*.

CHARLES J. PEABODY, *ex-officio*.

GEO. FRIS. DOW, *ex-officio*.

JOSEPH B. POOR,

WELLINGTON DONALDSON.



# CONSTITUTION OF THE TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Adopted, December 14, 1894.

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## ARTICLE I.

This organization shall be known as The Topsfield Historical Society.

## ARTICLE II.

Its object is the collection, preservation and study of all historical materials relating to the town of Topsfield, and it also shall be the purpose of the society to encourage the study of natural history in its various branches.

## ARTICLE III.

The officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Curator, and an executive committee, five in number, of which the President, Vice-President and Secretary shall be *ex officio* members.

All officers shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting.

## ARTICLE IV.

The Secretary shall give notice of all meetings and record their proceedings, and at the annual meeting shall make report of the doings of the Society for the preceding year.

He shall also acknowledge the receipt of all donations and preserve a record of the same.

## ARTICLE V.

The Executive Committee shall have general charge of the Society, and it shall be their duty to select suitable subjects for discussion at each meeting and arrange for the preparation of papers or addresses on the same.

## ARTICLE VI.

All persons interested in the objects of this Society are eligible for membership.

## ARTICLE VII.

Any person may be elected a member at a regular meeting by a majority vote of the members present and voting, the name of such person having been proposed in writing by two members at a previous meeting.

## ARTICLE VIII.

An annual fee of fifty cents shall be paid in advance by every member.

## ARTICLE IX.

Regular meetings shall be held on the first Friday of every month, excepting June, July and August, and the meeting held in January shall be the annual meeting for the hearing of all reports and election of officers for the ensuing year.

## ARTICLE X.

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a three-fourths vote of the members present, notice thereof having been given at a preceding meeting.





## LIST OF MEMBERSHIP

JANUARY 3, 1896.

Adams, Lizzie A.  
 Allen, Justin, M.D.  
 Averill, Charles  
 Balch, Benjamin J.  
 Balch, Mrs. Caroline P.  
 Balch, Franklin  
 Barnard, Charles N.  
 Bradstreet, Gertrude  
 Bradstreet, Metta  
 Bradstreet, Sarah R.  
 Blaisdell, J. Albert  
 Blaisdell, Mrs. Annie  
 Chandler, James H.  
 Chandler, Mrs. Carrie  
 Clark, Marietta  
 Conant, Albert A.  
 Cummings, Julia, Boxford  
 Dodge, Albert M.  
 Dodge, Samuel P.  
 Donaldson, Wellington  
 Donaldson, Mrs. Lillian  
 Dow, Geo. Frs.  
 Dwinell, Esther  
 Dwinell, Sarah  
 Edwards, Benjamin P.  
 Edwards, Mrs. Evelyn  
 Edwards, Sarah S., Haverhill  
 Field, Mrs. Emma J., Lynn  
 Fiske, Amos T.  
 Fuller, Daniel  
 Fuller, Mrs. Prancelia M.  
 Fuller, Calvin W.  
 Fuller, Mrs. Harriett  
 Gleason, Annie, Haverhill  
 Glover, Mrs. Gertrude, Ipswich  
 Gould, Mrs. Abbie J.  
 Gould, George L., Malden  
 Gould, Mary E.  
 Gould, W. Pitman  
 Gould, Mrs. Mettie  
 Haven, Mrs. Susan  
 Hodges, Mary Osgood  
 Hood, Salmon D.  
 Hutchings, Arthur W.  
 Hutchings, Mrs. Emma  
 Hutchings, Mrs. Esther W.

Johnson, Arthur  
 Johnson, Mrs. Nettie  
 Lake, Alice  
 Lake, Otto E.  
 Lamson, J. Arthur  
 Lamson, Mrs. Hattie  
 Leach, Charles H.  
 Leach, Mrs. Mary A.  
 Leach, Mrs. Louisa  
 Long, Ira P.  
 Nichols, Mrs. Mary L.  
 Peabody, Charles J.  
 Peabody, Mrs. Annie  
 Peabody, Bessie  
 Perkins, Clara E.  
 Perkins, Harris E.  
 Perkins, Lyman A.  
 Perley, Sidney, Salem  
 Peterson, Mrs. Cynthia W.  
 Pierce, E. Nelson  
 Pike, Baxter P.  
 Pike, Mrs. Sarah  
 Poole, Rev. Francis A.  
 Poor, Joseph B.  
 Poor, Mrs. Mary  
 Poor, Lizzie A.  
 Porter, Hattie S.  
 Potter, John H.  
 Pray, Ruel B.  
 Pray, Mrs. Caroline  
 Putnam, Eben, Salem  
 Rust, Forrest W.  
 Sturgis, Mrs. Annie, Ipswich  
 Todd, Ada  
 Todd, Hattie  
 Todd, Mehitabel  
 Towne, Mrs. Abbie W.  
 Towne, John H.  
 Towne, Rosa H.  
 Towne, S. Josephine  
 Trowbridge, Charles I.  
 Trowbridge, Mrs. Fanny  
 Webster, Albert  
 Welch, Mrs. Ellen H.  
 Welch, Leone P.  
 Woodbury, Mrs. Sarah





## SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To present the first annual report of a Historical Society is an honor but few have had the opportunity of embracing, and in the present instance I particularly esteem it, because of the great and growing success of our Society. which from a humble beginning has gradually gained in membership and influence until it has become a factor in the life of the town.

My connection with the Society has been a source of much pleasure, and the custom of regularly holding our meetings in this house has in part, I think, added to their interest, the social feature naturally proving attractive, so that it gives me great pleasure to again extend to you an invitation to hold here the future meetings of our Society.

In reviewing the work accomplished during the past year, perhaps the two more prominent features are the printing of historical collections and the gathering of a nucleus for a cabinet collection of relics and curiosities. Of the latter the number of objects is as yet not large, but, as a small room in the Town hall has been so kindly set aside for our use by the town authorities, it is hoped our funds may increase and during the coming year suitable cabinets may be obtained wherein our collection of historical relics may be properly displayed, safe from the curious handling of visitors. The expense will not be great and I would particularly call to your attention the needs of the Society in this respect with the

hope that some means can be devised for increasing our revenue with this end in view.

About the first of February our volume of Historical Collections will be ready for distribution. It will consist of about one hundred pages of text, with several illustrations. The executive committee have thought it best to distribute one copy to each member gratis and hold the remainder of the edition at a fixed price, hoping to derive a small revenue from their sale. While many other Societies, historical and philosophical, follow the practice of holding their reports or collections at a certain price irrespective of membership, your executive committee have thought best to make this distribution hoping by so doing to bind more closely the membership tie and place in the hands of each associate, whether a resident of Topsfield or living in some distant city, yet alike interested in our work, some tangible evidence of their affiliation with our Society.

There have been ten meetings of the society held during the past year. Papers have been prepared and read by the following members: Mrs. T. K. Leach, Mrs. Haven, Mrs. G. Warren Towne, Miss Metta Bradstreet, Miss Ada Todd, Miss Esther Dwinell, Miss Hattie Todd, Miss Bessie Peabody, Justin Allen, M. D., Benj. J. Balch, John H. Towne, W. Donaldson, C. J. Peabody, J. H. Potter, A. M. Dodge and your secretary, and several of the papers so prepared



have been printed in the collection.

Sidney Perley, Esq., of Salem, was present at the first meeting of the society and spoke on organized historical work. At the March meeting Hon. Robert S. Rantoul of Salem was present and read an interesting paper on "The Era of the Stage Coach." June 19 a field meeting was held at the agricultural farm and notwithstanding severe showers a good number was present. Papers were read by Mrs. Abbie W. Towne, Benj. J. Balch, Charles J. Peabody and your secretary. Several points of historical interest were visited, the company finally reaching the house of George F. Averill, who very hospitably threw open his doors and entertained the society royally.

On Sept. 20 a well attended public meeting was held at the Town hall when Ezra Himes, Esq., of Danvers delivered an address on the "Meaning and Value of Historical Societies" and also described his search for the portraits of the Browne family, the builders of the Folly hill mansion in Danvers. Charles J. Peabody also read a biographical sketch on Dr. Nehemiah Cleaveland. At the December meeting Rev. A. P. Putnam, president of the Danvers Historical Society, was present and delivered a lecture on "Our Historical Societies."

The donations to the cabinet number 22, and to the library 15. These will be properly acknowledged in the introductory pages of the historical collections.

John Hood Gould, an honorary member, died Feb. 11, 1895, and in his death the society meets with a great loss.

The membership at the present time is ninety-four and in this connection I would call your attention to the fact that every additional membership fee, small as it may seem, aids the society in its work and broadens the range of its usefulness. We need a larger membership. We should find inscribed on our rolls many interested in our work, though non-residents of Topsfield. The value of the historical collections might be held up as an inducement toward an increased membership, but in any case let each member propose one new name during the coming year and by so doing double our roll.

I would suggest that the office of curator be separated from that of secretary and an organized effort be made toward the accumulation of large additions to our cabinet collections. In many an old attic in town lie buried valuable relics of a by-gone day, and with the acquisition of closed cabinets each member should take particular pride in preserving for the society these various objects, and in time would result a collection that fittingly might represent the historic life of our town from the earliest times.

Respectfully submitted.

GEO. FRIS. DOW,  
Secretary.





# TREASURER'S REPORT.

For the year ending Dec. 31st, 1895.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURES.	
Annual dues	\$43.00	Printing historical col.	\$16.50
Geo. L. Gould, donation	2.00	Printing. typewriting, etc.	5.40
		Postal cards	10.70
		Record books	1.50
		Warren Blues' equipments	7.00
		Rent Town hall	2.50
		Lecturer's expenses	1.10
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$45.00		\$44.70
		Balance on hand	.30

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. FRs. DOW,

Treasurer.

## Donations for year ending Jan. 3, 1896.

### CABINET.

Cummings, Miss Julia A., Boxford—  
Arrow head.

Dodge, Albert M.—Cabinet case and  
collection of birds' eggs number-  
ing 116 varieties.

Dow, Eugene M.—Battered silver  
spoon found on Price's Hill,  
monogram B. B. H.

Dow, Geo. Frs.—Spinning wheel;  
piece of live oak keel of H. M.  
S. Somerset, wrecked on Cape  
Cod in 1779; two Indian arrow  
heads; stone implement used for  
sharpening Indian tools; badge,  
Mass. Society Sons of American  
Revolution; badge, Essex  
Co. Rep. Convention, Salem.

Aug. 24, 1887; badge, 25th  
Natl. Encampment G. A. R.,  
Detroit, Mich., 1891; framed  
portrait of Abraham Lincoln.

Gould, John H.—Hair trunk former-  
ly the property of Jacob Towne;  
ivory headed cane formerly the  
property of Jacob Towne; green  
silk umbrella formerly the prop-  
erty of Jacob P. Towne.

Hutchings, Mrs. Esther W.—Feather  
plume worn by Jeremiah Stone,  
M. D., when surgeon of the  
Topsfield Warren Blues in 1836.

Johnson, Mrs. Arthur—Brass bar-  
relled pistol picked up on the  
battlefield of Stonington, Conn.

Kimball, Paul R.—Banner of the



- Topsfield Fremont and Dayton Club, 1856.
- Pray, Reuel B.—Deck-light from U. S. S. S. Mendota; gavel turned from the oaken frame of the old Israel Gallup house; piece of core boring from the largest gun in the U. S. navy, from Washington Navy Yard, 1892.
- Stevens, Albert W.—Pieces of clay pipes from a chimney foundation in an old cellar near Crooked Pond in Boxford; (see Perley's dwellings of Boxford, page 136); two ancient iron peat forks; piece of chestnut wood excavated from the pit of the Topsfield copper mine in 1840, having been buried at the working of the mine in 1771.
- Webster, Albert—Indian stone axe.
- Welch, Mrs. Ellen H.—Wooden tablet inscribed with the date 1759, formerly fastened to the front of the gallery in the old meeting-house.
- LIBRARY.
- Averell, Sidney W.—Account book and ledger of David Hobbs, 1774-94, 72 pages.
- Chandler, James H.—Newspaper, extra number of Meriden, Conn., Republican, Aug. 20, 1881, containing account of life and death of President James A. Garfield.
- Davis, Andrew McF., Cambridge—Historical work in Mass. pamph. 1893, 55 pp.
- Edwards, Benj. P.—Three shares stock of Eastern stage company.
- Haven, Mrs. Theodore W.—Newspaper, Salem Gazette, Mar. 28, 1800; certificate of stock in Topsfield Agricultural Library, March 24, 1860; newspaper, Columbian Centinel, Dec. 22, 1810; tax collector's warrant, 1773; receipt for Revolutionary service July 11, 1776, Andrew Gould.
- Johnson, Mrs. Arthur—Universal Geography by Rev. Elijah Parrish, Newburyport, 1808. 214 pp.
- Lake, Henry W.—Newspaper, Newburyport Herald, Nov. 17, 1834, containing account of political celebration in Topsfield.
- Perley, Sidney, Salem—Newspapers, Salem Gazette Sept. 30, 1774 and Oct 7, 1774.
- Poor, Joseph B.—History of the emblem of the codfish in the Hall of the House of Representatives, Boston, 1895, 62 pp.
- Welch, Mrs. Ellen H.—Catalogues of Topsfield Academy for 1840, 1855, 1856.
- GEO. FRs. DOW.  
Curator.







# INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AT THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

JAN 4, 1895, BY THE PRESIDENT, JUSTIN  
ALLEN, M. D.

It seems proper on an occasion like this, when a newly organized Historical society is about to enter upon its appropriate work, that it should glance over the field to be occupied and touch upon some of the points that will more particularly engage its attention.

The history of the town and of events having relation near or more remote to the town history will afford an ample field for our study and investigation.

We need not be content with commencing our studies with the first settlement of the town by Europeans. These hills and valleys were previously inhabited by other races than our own, who have left traces of their occupancy. A very few of the race that inhabited this region were found in eastern Massachusetts when the first European emigrants arrived. The previous generations that occupied this locality have left a meagre history in rude implements used in their peaceful pursuits, in the chase, and in war.

There is a place in this town which from the many pre-historic relics found there is called the "wigwam." There is another place where there have been found irregular pieces of flint, and flint chips. The material was doubtless brought from a distance and manufactured into arrow-heads, spear-heads, and whatever other articles the needs and ingenuity of the residents might have devised. This is strong evidence that the aborigines had a permanent residence here. If such were the case it is probable that they buried their dead here also, and that their remains lie somewhere in the soil of our town. I am not aware that any Indian bones have been found within those limits. It may be reserved for a member of this society to

unearth a long concealed Indian burying-ground.

The town records afford the most reliable source for the civil history of the place, as an incorporated municipality. The oldest records are somewhat difficult to read, on account of their worn and to some extent illegible condition, as well as their ancient orthography and quaint chirography. The labor of deciphering and transcribing some of the more difficult portions of the records has been undertaken by one of our number, and we shall know more from the records of the town than it has been practicable to know heretofore.

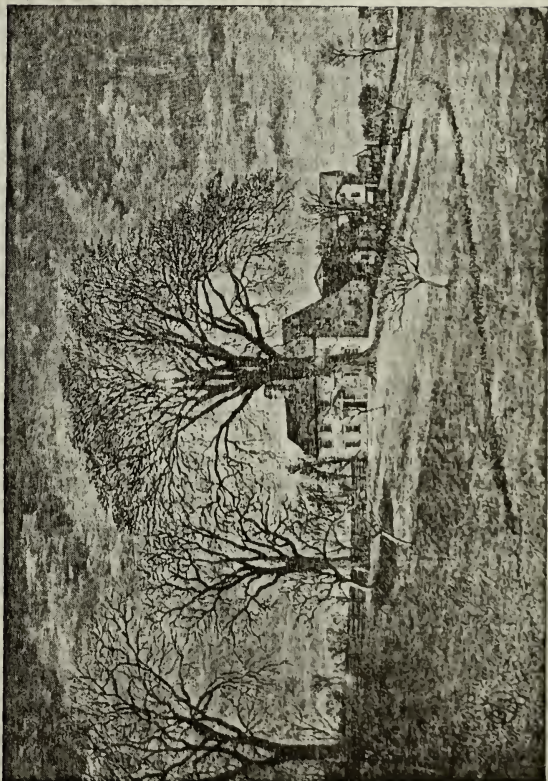
With regard to ancient landmarks the location of the residences of the early inhabitants, the boundaries of farms and early grants, and the elucidation of many obscure allusions in the town records, very much can be learned by a patient perusal of the Registry of Deeds.

Old deeds and papers that have withstood the waste of time and have been preserved in many of the old families will often give a clew to the establishment of important facts. The same may be said of such topics as the history of old houses, old cellars, and the location of old roads. Contemporary with the town records is the ecclesiastical history of the town. Church records, memoranda kept by the ministers and others are important in throwing light upon all matters relating to the religious life of the people. They are also valuable in a genealogical point of view. Obscure points in family history may be cleared up which would otherwise remain doubtful or unknown.

Events of wider interest connected with the history of the state of New England and of the United States, having



# ANNE BRADSTREET.



GOV. BRADSTREET'S HOUSE IN NORTH ANDOVER.  
Erected in 1667.





# ANNE BRADSTREET.

## HER LIFE AND WORKS.

BY METTA BRADSTREET.

Anne Bradstreet, noted as the earliest female poet in America, was the daughter of Thomas Dudley and wife of Simon Bradstreet, two of the founders and early governors of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The ancestry of that branch of the Dudley family to which Madam Bradstreet belonged is simply a matter of conjecture. Extensive researches have failed to prove the connection with John Dudley Duke of Northumberland, which several of the Dudley descendants claim.

Her father, Thomas Dudley, was born in Lincolnshire, Eng., in 1576 or '77 and was the only son of Captain Roger Dudley who fell in battle in 1586. Thomas was taken from school at an early age and became a page in the family of Lord Compton. After this he served as a lawyer's clerk, and then we find him at the head of a body of eighteen volunteers, part of a force collected by Elizabeth to aid the French king. From these various occupations he derived considerable legal skill, straightforwardness, honesty and courage. Under the preaching of the famous Puritan minister, Dodd, he became a Nonconformist and ever after adhered strictly to the views which he adopted.

For several years Dudley was steward of the Earl of Lincoln's estate, then he removed to Boston, Lincolnshire, where he became acquainted with Rev. John Cotton, his afterward companion in the New World. His wife, Dorothy, is spoken of in the record of their marriage as a "Gentlewoman whose Extract and Estate were Considerable." Anne was their second child, born in 1612, probably at Northampton. Of her early youth and bringing up we know but little. She was evidently religiously and strictly trained and from her works it is plain that she had read and studied with unusual diligence for one of her age and sex. At this time she had a rich field of study.

The quarter of a century preceding the departure of the Mass. Bay Company was one of the most glorious in the history of English literature. New books were appearing in unwonted numbers. Spenser, Sidney, Shakespeare, and Cervantes had recently died leaving choice additions to the literature of the world.

In this period of literary activity Madam Bradstreet passed the first eighteen years of her life. With literary tastes her surroundings during this time were such as to create and satisfy a desire for poetical and historical studies. Of her mother, who died in 1643 at the age of 61, little is known, not even her maiden name. In an epitaph to her, her daughter says:

"A worthy matron of unspotted life,  
A loving mother, and obedient wife"—

and farther on in the poem,

"A true instructor of her family  
The which she ordered with dexterity."

Her father, too, seems to have taken especial pains in instructing this daughter if we may judge from what she says of him:

"He was my father, guide, instructor too,  
And who more cause to boast his worth  
than I,  
Who heard, or saw, observed, or knew  
him better,  
And who alive, than I, a greater debtor."

At the age of sixteen she was married to Simon Bradstreet, the son of a Nonconformist minister of Lincolnshire. Bradstreet was born at Horbligg, March, 1603. He was educated at the grammar school until he was fourteen, when his father's death made it necessary for him to leave. He was taken into the family of the Earl of Lincoln under the care of Dudley. He was at Emmanuel College one year, having had, as he himself wrote, "a very pleasant but unprofitable time in the society of the Earl of Lincoln's broth-

# ANNE BRADSTREET AND HER WORK BY MARY BAKER FOSTER

THE LIFE OF ANNE BRADSTREET, 1612-1672, is a story of a woman who lived in a time of great religious and social change. She was born in England, and came to America with her husband, Simon Bradstreet, in 1635. She lived in Andover, Massachusetts, and was a member of the First Church in Andover. She was a woman of great faith and devotion, and her life was a model of Christian living. Her work was a record of her life, and it is a book that has inspired many people for over three centuries.

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er and other companions." Notwithstanding this he became a good scholar, taking his bachelor's degree in 1620 and his master's four years later. On Dudley's removal to Lincolnshire he became steward in his place managing the estate with equal skill, and at the time of his marriage he held the same position to the aged Countess of Warwick.

Religious and political affairs in England being in a bad state and boding ill for the future, on June 26th, 1629, Dudley with eleven others signed an agreement whereby they pledged themselves to remove with their families to New England by the first of the next March, provided the whole government, together with the patent, should be legally transferred before the last of September to remain with such plantation. Although Dudley had from 1627 been interested in the planting of a colony he evidently had no connection with the company till Oct. 15, 1629. On that day he and Winthrop were first present at a meeting. On Oct. 20, Dudley was chosen an assistant, and on Mar. 18, Bradstreet was elected to the same office. From that time they devoted their lives to the interests of the company, holding various high offices, and had at times committed to them the arrangement of business of vital consequence to the Colony. On board the "Arbella," Mar. 23d, Dudley was chosen Deputy-Governor in place of Mr. John Humphrey, who was to stay behind in England.

On Monday, March 23d, the little band of Puritans set sail in their four small vessels, the "Arbella," "Tabbot," "Ambrose," "Jewell." Most of the prominent people were on the "Arbella." Among them were Isaac Johnson and his wife, the delicate Lady Arbella; and here, too, was the governor, John Winthrop. With them, without doubt, were Mrs. Bradstreet, her father, mother and husband. "From April 6th till June 12th they did not again set foot on dry land and then it was to tread the soil of the New World." They had a long, cold, rainy voyage, the cheerlessness of which they tried to cheer by preaching, singing, fasting and thanksgiving. Small wonder, that the heart of our poetess thus called upon to

leave her native country with its many attractions, and her pleasant home with its dear associations, rebelled for a while at the desolate, even dangerous prospect before her. On the seventy-second day of their voyage the homesick, sea-worn travellers came in sight of the rocky but welcome shores of Mt. Desert. "We had now, fair sunshine weather and so pleasant a sweet air as did much refresh us, and there came a smell off the shore like the smell of a garden," writes Winthrop.

They landed at Salem, then after exploring the Charles and Mystic Rivers they brought their goods to Charlestown and here made a settlement of fifteen hundred people. The colony here was broken up because of lack of running water, general sickness, etc., and they went for a while to Boston across the river. In December, 1630, they decided upon Cambridge (then called Newtown) as a good location for their colony. Here Dudley and Bradstreet both resided, the former's house standing at the corner of the present Dunster and South Streets. Bradstreet's stood near the colleges, on the spot where the University Bookstore of Messrs. Sever and Francis on Harvard Square, now is. Here Madam Bradstreet's first poem was written in 1632, at the age of 19, "Upon a Fit of Sickness."

In 1635, Dudley and Bradstreet are found enrolled among the inhabitants of Ipswich. There they continued from 1635 to nearly 1644. Mrs. Bradstreet mentions her residing there, but we have no particulars respecting her stay in that town. One of her long poems, "A Dialogue between Old England and New," was written there.

On the 4th of March, 1634 or '5, we have this record: "It is ordered that the land aboute Cochichowicke shall be reserved for an inland plantation," etc. This is the first mention of what was afterward the town of Andover. The early settlements were made in that part near Cochichowick Brook, now known as North Andover. To this settlement came Simon Bradstreet and his wife sometime previous to 1644. Here Madam Bradstreet lived a busy, useful life, her







time fully occupied by the cares of her family, attendance on religious meetings, and other duties incumbent upon her as the wife of a popular magistrate. Her husband, too, was often absent from home for long periods, intent upon the business of the colony, once even returning to England. Those were times of great gloom and hardship to our poetess, as the letters written to her husband at those periods will show. The time which she spent in verse-making was curtailed from her sleep and other refreshments. The house which they occupied there was burned to the ground July 10th, 1666. Many of her books and valuable manuscripts were thus destroyed among them being the closing part of her poem, "The Four Monarchies," on which she had spent much time and labor. The accident was so discouraging that she had no heart to proceed further, and left the poem forever unfinished.

Not far from the site of the first meeting-house of Andover is a large, old-fashioned house, the oldest in the place. It has always been believed in the town that this was the Governor's house, built to take the place of that burned, and its size, solidity of construction and position tend to strengthen the belief. If so Madam Bradstreet must have lived in it a few years, as she did not die till 1672, six years after the fire, and then in Andover. The house was later known to be the residence of their son Dudley. It stands on the old Haverhill and Boston road, within a few feet of the way, and has a southerly aspect. It has two full stories in front but sloped to a single one in the rear. The doors are small and low. The frame of the house is very heavy with massive old timbers; an immense chimney runs up in the centre.

Mrs. Bradstreet had eight children. First, Samuel, who was educated at Harvard College and practiced as a physician in Boston for many years, died in the Island of Jamaica where he had removed. Second, Dorothy, who married the Rev. Seaborn Cotton, eldest son of the Rev. John Cotton of Boston. Third, Sarah, who married Richard Hubbard at Ipswich, brother of the Rev. Wm. Hubbard, the historian. After his death,

she married Maj. Samuel Ward of Marblehead. Fourth, Simon, also educated at Harvard, and ordained pastor of the church at New London, Conn., in 1670. Fifth, Hannah, married Andrew Wiggin of Exeter, N. H. Sixth, Mercy, married Maj. Nathaniel Wade of Medford. Seventh, Dudley, who resided in Andover, holding several important offices in the town. During the witch-craft delusion he, as magistrate, granted thirty or forty warrants for the apprehension and imprisonment of the supposed witches, but refusing to grant more he fell himself a victim to the same charge and was obliged to secrete himself for a while. He died in 1702, having won the love and confidence of his fellow townsmen. Eighth, John, born in Andover 1652 and resided in Topsfield on Governor Bradstreet's grant of land in the eastern part of the town. He married Sarah, daughter of Rev. William Perkins of this town. They had five children. He died in Topsfield, Jan. 11, 1718.

All but one daughter, Dorothy, were living at the time of Madam Bradstreet's death in 1672, at the age of sixty. Her burial-place is unknown. No stone bearing her name can be found in the old burying ground at Andover. It is probable that her remains were deposited in her father's tomb in Roxbury. It is also unfortunate that there is no portrait of her in existence. Four years after her death, her husband married again, this time to the widow of Capt. Joseph Gardner of Salem, and daughter of Emmanuel Downing.

Anne Bradstreet's descendants have been numerous and many have achieved fame in the world of letters. Some of the most noted are, her grandson, Rev. Simon Bradstreet, who though eccentric, was one of the most learned men of his day. Dr. William Ellery Channing, the celebrated divine. Rev. Joseph Buckminster of Portsmouth and his son. Richard H. Dana, the poet, and the Hon. Richard H. Dana, Jr., eminent as a man of letters and lawyer. Doctor Oliver Wendell Holmes, poet and humorist. Mr. Wendell Phillips, the orator.

Mrs. Bradstreet's poems show that she had been a faithful student of history, an



assiduous reader and a keen observer of nature and of what was taking place both at home and abroad. Her familiarity with the Bible is apparent all through her writings. Du Bartas, a French poet whose works were regarded with much favor by the Puritans, was her favorite author. The general idea of her longer poems may have been suggested by a study of his works. Sir Philip Sidney, writer, poet, and soldier, was another favorite, as her eulogy on him will show.

Although Madam Bradstreet's works may be greatly inferior to what women since her day have accomplished, up to that time no poet of her sex in Europe had written anything of equal literary merit. She was a loving wife and a tender mother. Her children were constantly on her mind. Prompted by her love for them she wrote out her religious experiences in a little book, in which she also kept a record of sickness, religion, etc. The book is thus dedicated:

"To my dear children:—

This book by any yet unread,  
I leave for you when I am dead;  
That being gone here you may find  
What was your living mother's mind.  
Make use of what I leave in love,  
And God shall bless you from above."

From some of her poems it appears that she must have loved to wander in the woods and fields and have found there the companionship which she missed elsewhere. Her constant studying and writing had evidently exposed her to the criticism of her neighbors. The fact of a woman's being able to compose anything of any merit was then regarded with the greatest surprise and disdain. Despite the danger from wild beasts which inhabited the woods, and the Indians whose assaults were a constant dread, she continued to visit field and forest, meditating on their winning charms and grand and silent beauty: and to ramble along the banks of her loved Merrimack, where many of her poems were composed. The graceful beauty of one of these, her "Contemplations," leads us to wish that she had spent less time over her histories and sought more often the fair face of nature. This

one poem proves her more truly a poet than the many others which she wrote. All the poems in the first edition of her works were written before she was thirty, though they were not published until 1650 and then without her consent or knowledge. The later editions contain several poems found among her papers at her death and which seem not intended for publication. Having had from birth a very delicate constitution and through life many sicknesses, fevers, etc., she bore all with meekness and resignation. In spite of her feeble health she continued to write till near the date of her death.

In 1647, Rev. John Woodbridge, her sister Mercy's husband, sailed for England, taking with him the manuscript poems of our author. These he had published in London in 1650 under the title of "The Tenth Muse Lately sprung up in America. Or Several Poems, compiled with great variety of Wit and Learning,—By a Gentlewoman in those parts." They were introduced to the reader in a short preface in which the author is described as "a Woman, honoured and esteemed where she lives, for her gracious demeanour, her eminent parts, her pious conversation, her courteous disposition, her exact diligence in her place, and discreet managing of her family." He also adds: "I feare the displeasure of no person in the publishing of these Poems but the Author's, without whose knowledge and contrary to her expectations I have presumed to bring to publick view what the resolved should never in such manner see the Sun." The poems were most extravagantly praised on their appearance by Rev. N. Ward, Cotton Mather, Rev. Benj. Woodbridge, President Rogers of Harvard University, and others.

On the merits of her productions I will say but little, leaving the listener as judge for himself. One can hardly expect that after "twice drinking the nectar of her lines" you will "welter in delight" like her enthusiastic critic, Pres. Rogers. Even if they do not show much poetic genius, they are certainly remarkable when we consider the time, place, and circumstances under which they were





written. She must have been a brave singer who could find heart for song amid the danger and hardships incident upon life in the New World at that time. Her poems are quaint and curious. They contain beautiful and original thoughts, some of which are not badly expressed and they form an odd and valuable relic of the earliest literature of our country. The listener must bear in mind that no congenial and gifted minds were near to

cheer or inspire her, no circle of brilliant wits to sharpen and brighten her intellect. She had no beautiful environments, no famous works of art to elevate or direct her taste, but the country was a barren wilderness, destitute of all poetical associations. Life was then a series of hard, obstinate facts, and the people among whom our songstress was called to dwell were the last in the world to encourage or appreciate a poet.

## The Burning of Rea Tavern, Topsfield, October, 1836.

A paper prepared by Mrs. T. K. Leach and read before the Topsfield Historical Society, Friday evening, April 5th, 1895.

In the year 1836, Mr. Leach and myself were married and came to Topsfield the second day of May. We moved into Mr. Fred Perley's new house, the one owned by Mr. Andrew Gould today. In the house lived four families; in the upper tenements lived the families of Nehemiah Balch and Joseph Lovett, and Dea. John Wright, and our family occupied the lower floor. Mr. John Wright manufactured shoes and employed many men, some of whom he boarded in his own family. Of the many who lived in the house at that time, I know of but two besides myself who are alive today, Mr. David Adams of Lynn, and Mr. Nehemiah Balch's son Charles of Lowell, who was a mere child three years old, at that time. On the opposite side of the street from which we lived, stood the Rea tavern, which was a large two-story square house, a barn or stable owned by Mr. John Rea, and a two-story building, which was occupied by the firm of Herrick & Perkins (Charles Herrick & Amos Perkins) in the manufacture of shoes.

At the time of which I write, we were all young and full of life, and the calls we made on one another were numerous and not very ceremonious. I often ran

across the street to see Eliza Bradstreet, the house-keeper of Mr. John Rea, and Betsy Gould, the maid servant, who afterwards became Mrs. Samuel Adams. As Mr. Rea was a widower and Eliza his house-keeper, we often joked with Eliza at the prospect of her becoming Mrs. Rea, which Eliza would promptly resent. Betsy was not slow, and with what aid I could give her, we made the tavern ring with laughter and mirth.

Now, about the fire which consumed the tavern, stable and shoe factory, in the fall of the year 1836. I was awakened one Monday morning in October, about one o'clock, by a noise, arousing my husband, who sprang up and looking out of the window, said, "We are all afire," I asked him if I had time to dress, and he said, "It is Rea's," and gave the alarm in the house, which was alive instantly. I went to the front room and looked out, and the flames were just bursting out of the Northwest end of the tavern, and no one was astir but the hostler, Joseph Hastings, who was in the act of leading out one of the horses. Mr. Rea had two, both of which were led out, but one rushed back and perished.

Mr. Hastings slept in the attic of the





tavern next to the barn, and being suddenly awakened spang from his bed and rushed down stairs and in his descent his first impulse was to awaken the inmates. Opening the door of a side room occupied by Mr. Rea's brother's family to give the alarm, he was surprised to see Mr. Rea dressed in his Sunday clothes, with that huge black breast pin on, of which so much was said in the trial which followed, a dress which people remarked about as hardly fitting in which to fight a fire. Mrs. Rea was dressed in a flannel night gown, a garment which her husband, who said he could not tell what would happen before morning, had advised her to wear. This was testified to by Mrs. Charles H. Holmes in the court, being so informed by Mrs. Rea. Mr. Rea had packed his trunk, which he took up to Mr. Moses Wildes' house, and threw into the window by the end door. Mr. Hastings then opened the door to Eliza's room; she was fast asleep with Mr. Rea's little son.

In no time the whole village was aroused, and a man was despatched on horse back to Salem for an engine and ladders, which came with all due speed. The engine was attached to the town well (the one in use today,) and strange to say, it never sucked air but once. Rev. McEwen stood guard over the well, that no water should be wasted. Mr. Samuel Gould's two wells and Capt. Munday's one supplied all the water used at the fire.

The house in which we lived was in constant peril, and the manner in which we saved it was by carrying tubs of water to the attic and taking the clothes stripped from the bed, putting them into the tubs, and laying them thoroughly saturated with water on the roof and keeping them so until the engine arrived from Salem.

Mr. Perley's other house (now Mr J. B. Poor's) was used by Mr. Perley's brother Nat and himself as a variety store; it was filled with goods, and in his anxiety to save it, Nat, who went to the roof for that purpose, slipped and fell to the L, injuring himself seriously.

Mr. Benjamin Kimball had nearly finished his house, and with shavings and boards lying around the ground it seemed almost sure of destruction, but the timely arrival of the engine and ladders, which brought a large number of canvas sails, saved that and the other building.

When I came from the attic after assisting in wetting the blankets, I met Mr. Perley at the foot of the stairs; he said that we must clear the house as it was sure to go, we could not save it. I commenced to pack; I took a very large band box, (large enough to hold a dozen bonnets like those worn now-a-days) and put into it my dinner-set, comprising two dozen cups and saucers, milk pitcher, sugar bowl, two dozen plates, glass cup-plates, and preserve dishes, that filled the box. This I did in my parlor, and took them to the outer door. Then somebody said, "Here, Mrs. Leach, let me take the basket." Of this I was thankful, it was so heavy. The man carried it to Mr. Benjamin Kimball's land, and just as he was in the act of setting it down, out came the bottom of the box. I was fortunate in this accident, as but two glass dishes were broken, a fact which I discovered when I went to get them after the danger from the fire had passed. I was thoroughly surprised, however, to find that I could not lift the box, try as hard as I could, when I attempted to take it into the house. We got it back at last, and as they were bringing it in, a terrible crash came. I thought my dishes had gone at last, but it happened to be the ladder that went through the window as they were taking them from the house.

Many amusing things occurred while we were preparing to leave the house. I wanted to save my milk pitcher, so turned the milk which it contained on the floor. Mrs. Bulch, in saving her linen, tied it up in a sheet, and her camphor-bottle she emptied into the sink, and the odor of camphor was present with us long after the fire. I looked for my wedding-dress, which was a lavender silk, and found it in the wood-basket, and a rug tucked into a bureau drawer.

So after the fire, as in all country towns, things quieted down and we thought but little about it till the next Sunday morning, when my husband came in and said,





"Two men were hung last night on the sign-post." I had another scare, but he laughed and added, "only in effigy." I went to the front window and sure enough, there hung what appeared to be two men; one had on a breast-plate made of leather, which was conspicuous by its immensity. Our good man Samuel Hood, learning of this, and as it was our good old New England Sabbath when all were expected to go to church, hurried to the scene with ladder in hand, and soon brought them to the ground, and laid them away. Other eyes saw this, and when the opportunity came, as it did after the people were in church, brought out the deposed effigies, and laid them across the wall that *fronted the burnt district*.

Of course the fire was the one theme talked about for a long time, and it leaked out that Rea found a letter threatening him if he continued his visits to see Ann Sawyer, that his buildings would be burnt over his head. He said that he picked the letter up on returning from one of his visits to the lady, and that he also knew who wrote it. People remarked very generally that it was high time such folks were brought to justice, and if he or his brother Samuel knew who it was that did such a thing, he should be brought out in a trial. It became so uncomfortable for those immediately interested that a warrant was sworn out, and Eliza Bradstreet was arrested by Sheriff Sprague of Salem on a charge of arson. Parson McEwen tendered to the Sheriff his house (now owned by Mrs. Ephraim Peabody), while he had Eliza in charge, which was accepted by them. They remained there during the whole trial.

The court assembled in the upper part of the Academy building, and lasted eleven days. J. W. Proctor, Esq., of South Danvers presided. Asahel Huntington of Salem was counsel for the government and Leveret Saltonstall, Esq., of Salem, appeared for Eliza. The attorneys King and Mack of Salem assisted in the trial, but in what capacity I am unable to write. There was little work done at home; every lady in the town attended court. I was there every day.

Mr. Huntington made the opening ad-

dress, during which he held aloft the letter that Mr. John Rea said that he had found, and in a high and powerful voice, declared that he should prove the charge by it, she, Eliza, having gone over it with her pen after it was written, which was called "painting." Mr. Samuel Rea had the severest examination. I think he was on the stand four or five days, and that beautiful breast-plate was often alluded to.

The trial waxed warm and bitter, lasting, as I have written, eleven days, days that, as the sun went down, grew darker and darker for Eliza, but confidence in his client, and satisfaction in the result that he would prove to the world that Eliza Bradstreet was innocent of the charge of arson,—a charge actuated by selfish and unkind motives,—spurred on Saltonstall. The thunder clap came when her brother took the stand, and in answer to the question. "Did your sister ever write to you?" replied with an emphatic "No." "Did she give any reason?" continued Saltonstall, to which he replied, "Yes." "Dear brother, my will is good enough, but I cannot write." Others testified to this fact, which appeared to be the deciding point in the trial.

When the trial was ended, the court adjourned to the church for the closing pleas. Two days elapsed before we got the verdict, but on the morning of the 4th of March, 1837, Eliza Bradstreet was acquitted of the charge of arson. The verdict was, "Could not sustain the charge."

The bells pealed forth the joyful news. It was the day that President Van Buren was inaugurated, and people out of town thought Topsfield was getting unusually patriotic.

In closing this paper, I will say that this is written from memory, and not from notes. I do not think that I have misquoted anyone, or misstated any of the facts. Of the principals in this famous trial,—a trial which was never recorded save by him who knoweth all things that are done in this earth,—I will say that Mr. John Rea married Ann Sawyer, and moved to the British Provinces, and Eliza Bradstreet became Mrs. Silas Cochrane.



# Topsfield Minute Men at the Battle of Lexington.

"At a Meeting of the Alarm List and Training Band of the Foot company in Topsfield, on the 5th of December, 1774, to choose officers for the said Company, (agreeable to the advice of the Provincial Congress), voted, Mr. Stephen Perkins, chairman; voted, Mr. Joseph Gould, Captain.

The Day being Spent, a Motion was made for said Meeting to be adjourned to the next Morning, 9 o'clock; the Question was put and passed in the Affirmative and accordingly said Meeting was adjourned to said Time.

December 6. Said Alarm List and Training Band met according to Adjournment, a Motion was made said Company to be divided into two distinct Companies; the Question was put and accordingly they were divided into two Companies; the first Company voted Mr. Joseph Gould, Captain; Mr. Samuel Cummings, Lieutenant; Mr. Thomas Moore, Ensign; and all the other Officers by a great Majority. The second Company voted Mr. Stephen Perkins, Captain; Mr. Samuel Dodge, Lieutenant; Mr. David Perkins, Ensign; and all the other Officers by a great Majority."

Essex Gazette, Dec. 27, 1774.

The following Muster Rolls were copied from the State Archives by Geo. Frs. Dow, and the dates of birth and death were inserted by the late John Hood Gould.

## North Ward Company.

A Roll of the Company which marched from Topsfield under the Command of Capt. Stephen Perkins in consequence of the alarm on ye 19th April, 1775.

	BORN	DIED
Capt. Stephn Perkins	1726	1790
Lt. Solo. Dodge	—	—
2d Lt. David Perkins	1725	1803
Ser. Sam'l Bradstreet	1729	1777
" Jacob Kimball	1734	1810
" Nath'l Dorman	1740	1776
" Thos. Cummings	1741	1806
Corp'l Benj. Hobbs	1749	1833
" Ezra Perkins	1753	1824
" Josiah Lamson	1751	1836
Nath'l Averell	1747	1811
Isaac Averell	1740	1816
Amos Averell	1747	1805
Dan'l Boardman	1752	1803
John Batchelor	1743	1819
Israel Clarke	1732	1790
Josiah Cummings	1756	—
Ephraim Dorman	1741	1818
Stephen Foster	1741	1791
Wm. Gallop	1750	—
Hez'h Hodgskins	d. New Ipswich, N. H.	—
Nath'l Hammon	1757	1842
Isaac Hobbs	1743	1830
David Hobbs	1752	1830
Jon'a Hobbs	1754	1833
Benja. Hood	1748	1801
Ivey Hovey	1756	1816
Richard Hood	1751	1824
John Lamson	1756	—
Amos Low	1752	—
Aaron Kneeland	1754	d. Me.
Thomas Perkins	1725	1801
Sam'l Perkins	1730	1810
Rob't Perkins	1728	1801
Oliver Perkins	1744	1825
Jacob Peabody	—	—
Steph'n Perkins	1745	1796
Zeb'n Perkins	1740	1810
Jos. Perkins	1738	1805
Ellisha Perkins	1745	—
Jos. Symonds	1749	—
Jacob Symonds	1749	1801





	BORN	DIED
Dan'l Towne	1736	1808
Jacob Towne	1728	1807
Moses Wildes	1740	1810
Eph'm Wildes	1744	1812
Jno. LeFavour	1748	1834

The company marched 60 miles and saw 2½ days service. Capt. Perkins received £1 2 ½, while the privates of the company received 10s-8d.

### South Ward Company.

A muster Roll of Capt. Joseph Gould; Company of the Militia whereof John Baker Esq. is Coll. who marched on the 19th day of April last past in consequence of the Alarm made on that Day by the English Troops.

Topsfield, December 26, 1775.

	BORN	DIED
Capt. Joseph Gould	1715	1803
Lieut. Sam'l Cummings	1732	1796
Ens. Thos. Mower	—	—
Sergt. Nehemiah Herrick	1737	d. Vt.
“ John Peabody	1730	1802
“ David Towne, jr.	1744	1815
“ Thomas Porter	1751	—
Corp. Cornelius Balch	1749	1795
“ Ebenezer Knight	—	—
“ Benj. Gould	1751	1841
Drum Elijah Perkins	1756	1841
David Balch, jr.	1753	1812
Robert Balch	1745	—
David Balch, 3d	1741	died
Roger Balch	1755	[Keene, N. H.
Israel Balch	1756	1842
Samuel Balch	1744	1778
David Balch	1714	—
Daniel Bigsbe, jr.	1751	1787
Dudley Bigsbe	1756	1825
Benjamin Brown	—	—
Thomas Baker, jr.	1752	—
Henry Bradstreet	1742	1818

	BORN	DIED
Daniel Bigsbe	1714	1775
John Cree	1722	1794
Samuel Cree	—	—
Joseph Cree	1753	—
Bartholo'w Dwinel	1728	1801
John Dwinel	1745	1818
Daniel Eastey	1739	1830
Wm. Eastey	1748	—
Nathaniel Fisk.	1741	1815
Samuel Fisk	1747	1826
Simon Gould	1755	1831
Thomas Gould	1732	1778
Zaccheus Gould	—	—
John Gould, jr.	1749	1820
John Gould, 3d	1746	1819
Nath'l Gould	1753	1842
Daniel Gould	1753	1842
John Gould	1746	1816
Enos Knight	—	—
Benj. Kimball	—	—
Eliezer Lake, jr.	1751	1824
Eliezer Lake	1724	1796
Daniel Porter	1743	1831
Moses Perkins jr.	1755	1806
Thomas Perkins, 3d	1753	d.N.H.
Moses Perkins	1732	1807
William Ray	1755	1779
John Ray, jr.	1751	1821
John Ray	1736	1797
Ephraim Towne, jr.	1753	1804
Joseph Towne	1728	1789
Joseph Towne, jr.	1749	1820
Arch. Towne	1752	1804
Stephen Towne, jr.	1741	—
David Towne	1715	1778
Jeremiah Towne, jr.	1743	—
Wm. Towne	1751	—
Joshua Towne	1721	1788

The company marched 60 miles and saw a service of 3 to 5 days. Capt. Gould was paid £1-6-5, while the privates received about 12s. 1½d. as an average.



## William Towne, his Daughters, and the Witchcraft Delusions.

By Mrs. Abbie W. Towne.

The name of Towne is not one of frequent occurrence in England; the first mention of it is in A. D. 1227. The next we hear of the name is one hundred and thirty years later, in the reign of Henry IV., when upon the windows of the church in Kennington, Kent Co., unpaired with that of Ellis of the same place, were the arms of a family by this name being, *argent, on a chevron, sable, three cross crosslets, ermine*. The next reference to the name known to the writer, is in the county of Lincoln where it has existed for more than four hundred years.

Richard Towne of Braceby in the county of Lincoln, married Ann,—they had ten children; one of these children, William, was baptized May 31, 1603, and is supposed to be our Anglo-American progenitor. Ann Towne's will was proved May 10, 1630. William B. Towne of Brookline, Mass., has a copy of this will. That our William was the son of Richard and Ann is probable, but there is no absolute proof, and before we go on to the facts that we can prove, I wish to speak of another William Towne who came to America. He was living at Cambridge, Mass., in 1635, was made a freeman or voter in 1637, and was quite a prominent man in the infant colony. He married Martha—and died in 1685, leaving two children Peter and Mary. Peter was married but left no son and thus ended the family name in Cambridge. I have spoken of this William because I do not think it generally known that there were two; this has caused much confusion in times past.

William Towne of Salem, Mass., is the father of the Towne race in America. Mr. Cleveland says in his centennial address in 1850, "This descendants have settled in two-thirds of the states of the Union," and Mr. Hubbard says in his Towne genealogy, "There are few families deriving their name from a single pair that can

show a larger number of descendants than William and Joanna (Blessing) Towne. Counting only the descendants of the Towne daughters of the first and second generations, a list of more than ten thousand might be easily made out without coming down later than the earlier part of the nineteenth century."

William Towne and Joanna Blessing were married at St. Nichols church, Yarmouth, Norfolk Co., England, March 25, 1620. Their children were—Rebecca, baptized Feb. 21, 1621, married Francis Nurse of Salem Village; John, baptized Feb. 16, 1624, died before his father; Susanna, baptized Oct. 20, 1625, died before her father; Edmund, baptized June 28, 1628, married Mary Browning of Salem; Jacob, baptized March 11, 1632, married Catharine Symonds of Salem; Mary, baptized Aug. 21, 1634, married Isaac Esty of Topsfield; Sarah, baptized Sept. 3, 1648, married Edmund Bridges, and second, Peter Cloise; Joseph, baptized Sept. 3, 1648, married Phebe Perkins, daughter of Deacon Thos. Perkins.

The first we hear of this family in Salem, Essex Co., is in the book of early grants, where the following appears: "8 mo. 1640, granted to Wm. Towne a little neck of land right over against his house on the other side of the river." William Towne's residence was in that part of Salem known as Northfields. He remained at this place until 1651, when he purchased a tract of land in Topsfield of William Paine of Ipswich, containing "forty acres of ground or thereabouts, whereof six acres is by the seller, which Wm. Howard of Topsfield built, and about thirty-two acres joining up to the said six acres eastward of it, part of which is plow ground another part is meadow, another part is upland unplowed all lying together having the meadow and the plow ground of the said William Howard towards the east, and the ground





of Walter Ropes towards the north and a certain river towards the south, also a little meadow of about two acres lying on the south side of the river." In 1652 he sold his property in Salem and purchased additional lands in Topsfield. In 1663 "in consideration of natural affection and the contemplated marriage of their son Joseph Towne to Phebe Perkins, daughter of Dea. Thomas Perkins, he and his wife conveyed to their son Joseph two-thirds of the home wherein they then did dwell, with barn, out houses, yard, gardens, orchards, lying situate and being in Topsfield together with a parcel of land, etc., etc." All these conveyances being made with the desire that their son Joseph should have the first refusal of the remaining third when the same should be for sale. William Towne died about 1672; his widow seems to have survived him about ten years. The sons were prominent men; we find their names many times as appraisers of estates and also that they settled many estates. In 1669 Edmond and Jacob laid out the road leading towards the south from the bridge near their father's house. This road was to be one pole wide, and must be one of the oldest roads on the south side of the river.

It is hardly necessary for me to give any account of the witchcraft delusion, which swept over our quiet neighborhood two hundred years ago; all are familiar with that terrible story. Rebecca Nurse was the fourth victim. Upham says the only clue to the mystery that a person of Mrs. Nurse's character should be selected, was the prosperous condition of the Nurse family and trouble about bounds. Nevins thinks her near relationship to the Townes of Topsfield, who were actively interested in settling the disputed bounds, had a bearing on the case. Two of her neighbors, Israel and Elizabeth Porter, were sent to acquaint her with the fact that she had been accused. They found her very weak and suffering, but patient, and she blessed God that she had more of Him in her weakness than in her strength. When we told her that she had been spoken of, she said, "Well, if it be so, the will of the Lord be done," she sat a while being,

as it were, amazed, and then she said, "Well, as to this thing, I am as innocent as a child unborn, but surely," she said, "What sin hath God found out in me unrepented of that he should lay such an affliction upon me in my age." It is said she bore her examination with steadfast dignity and heavenly patience. One cannot read the description of these trials with any particle of patience. The people were barbarous, the judges little better. They were supposed to be counsel for the prisoners, but instead were really against them, and badgered the victims unmercifully. Rebecca Nurse was pronounced innocent by the jury, but the audience made such a clamor that the judge sent them out again and practically charged them to find her guilty, and they did so. It is related also by Upham that a woman in the audience threw her muff at Mrs. Nurse and as this did not hit her she took off her shoe and threw it with such good aim that it hit the poor old lady on the head, making quite a severe cut. When we think that this woman was seventy one years old, and in ill health, that she had been loved and respected to an unusual degree, and then picture her standing before the grave judges of the colony, a target for the mob, on trial for her life, we wonder that her brothers, her sons and her husbands had not rescued her by force. She was loaded with chains, taken to the church and excommunicated, and on July 19, 1692 hung on Gallows hill. The witches were not allowed christian burial, but were taken from the gallows, huddled into shallow hollows among the rocks, and covered with a thin layer of earth. I have been told that on one occasion the hand of one of the victims protruded above ground, as if the very earth itself refused them shelter.

According to tradition the sons of Rebecca Nurse stole their mother's body on the night following her execution, and carried it on their shoulders to their desolate home. Think what a journey it must have been for those men!

When Mr. Harris singled out Rebecca Nurse, and in his sermon called her a demon, Sarah Cloyce, her sister, arose and left the church. This was a natural thing

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to do, but we of today can hardly realize the courage it required. The next day she too was cried out upon, she was tried and condemned, but for some reason never executed, some think she confessed but I do not; she was a brave woman, and a woman of the same family as Rebecca Nurse and Mary Esty, and I cannot think she could possibly say that she was a witch. She was confined at the Ipswich jail because there was no room at Salem and I am inclined to think that with so many victims near at hand she was forgotten.

Mary Esty (the self-forgetful), was accused for no other reason than her sympathy for her sisters; she was 48 years of age and the mother of seven children. During her examination the magistrates said to her, "confess if you be guilty." She answered, "I will say it if for the last time, I am clear of this sin." This was on April 21. On May 18 she was released. Two days after the accusing girls were seized with terrible convulsions, and said it was Mary Esty who cursed them. Accordingly a second warrant was procured, she was taken May 21 and removed to Salem for trial. After midnight she was aroused from sleep by the marshal, torn from her husband and children, carried back to prison loaded with chains, and finally consigned to a dreadful and most cruel death. Her husband referring to the transaction nearly

twenty years after said that it was a "hellish molestation." On the way to the gallows she was met by her family and friends, and of this meeting and parting Calef says, "that her words of farewell were said to have been as serious, religious, distinct, and affectionate as could well be expressed, drawing tears from the eyes of almost all present."

While in jail awaiting execution Mary Esty petitioned the governor, judges and ministers, "Not for my own life, for I know I must die and my appointed time is set, but the Lord he knows it is that if it be possible, no more innocent blood may be shed, which undoubtedly cannot be avoided in the way and course you now go in. By my own innocency I know you are in the wrong I would humbly beg of you that your honors would be pleased to examine these afflicted persons strictly, and keep them apart some time, and likewise to try some of these confessing witches, I being confident there are several of them have belied themselves, and others, as will appear, if not in this world, I am sure in the world to come, whither I am now going."

Upham closes his chapter on Mary Esty with these words: "The lofty tone of this message to the court recalls the perfect spirit of the prisoner on Calvary who entreated, 'Father forgive them; they know not what they do.' "





# The Settlement of Topsfield.

GEO. FRIS. DOW.

Every township located wherever it may be, whether in the old time settlements along the Atlantic coast or springing up on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada, should have and generally is possessed of a natural spirit of inquiry as to its first settlement and early growth.

Who was the first settler and where did he build his house? When was the town incorporated and who were the petitioners?

These and kindred questions naturally rise to the lips of the inquirer, and oft-times arouse differences of opinion not easily settled by the scanty records now existing. Tradition then comes to the assistance of the incomplete data, and almost without exception makes a bad matter worse so that who can wonder at the varying statements of historical fact met within the village or town that does not possess a printed history carefully prepared by an unbiased historian.

Topsfield is unfortunate in not possessing such a printed record of events, and the historical theories advanced from time to time by some ardent investigator can only be combated after collecting widely scattered data bearing upon the facts in the case.

The following historical sketch has been prepared from the original data found in the proceedings of the Great and General Court, the records of the Ipswich and Salem Court, and the valuable material on file at the Registry of Deeds.

The early settlements along the shores of Massachusetts Bay owe their existence to the unrelentless persecution of the Puritans in England at the investigation of Archbishop Laud. Small fishing and trading posts had found a lodgement along the coast some years before the coming of Endicott, but these consisted of little else than a few rudely constructed huts for sheltering the lonesome fishermen who cared for the fish flakes.

The arrival at Salem in 1628 of John Endicott with a small party of one hundred emigrants was in reality the laying of the foundation of the first permanent

town in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

John Endicott was a prominent member of the Non-conformist company, styled "The Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England," who had obtained from Charles I a patent for that part of New England lying between three miles to the northward of the Merrimac river and three miles to the southward of the Charles, and extending in breadth from the Atlantic to the South Sea. He had been chosen by the Company "to govern," and as Johnson says in his *Wonder working Providence*, was "a fit instrument to begin this wilderness work; of courage bold, undaunted, yet sociable, and of a cheerful spirit, loving or austere, as occasion served."

The patent or charter granted to these early settlers gave undisputed title to the land, for the scourge of small pox had shortly before their arrival almost completely annihilated the native race of Indians, and the rights of the few who had survived the pestilence, were easily purchased, so that full and just title to all the land was held by the Massachusetts Bay Company who alone could sell or grant.

In 1629 the settlers began to arrive and during the next four years, upwards of four thousand of them found homes in the infant colony.

In 1633, April 1st, the court of assistants ordered "that no person whatsoever shall go to plant or inhabit at Aggawam, without leave from the Court, except those that are already gone." The little party of adventurers was headed by John Winthrop, junr., and consisted of ten men. Two of them, Mr. William Perkins and Daniel Clark, afterwards settled in Topsfield, and two others, Mr. John Winthrop, junr., and Thomas Howlett received large grants of land in the town.

The town of Ipswich was incorporated in 1634 and grew rapidly in population and importance; it became the shire town of the county and several of the Assistants and other prominent men in the Colony built their homes near the slowly



# The Semantics of English

by J. R. Hayes

The semantics of English is a complex and multifaceted subject, encompassing the study of meaning in the language. It involves understanding how words, phrases, and sentences convey information and how this information is processed by the mind. The field is divided into several sub-disciplines, including lexical semantics, which deals with the meaning of individual words, and phrase semantics, which focuses on the meaning of larger units of language. Additionally, there is a growing interest in the cognitive aspects of semantics, exploring how meaning is represented and processed in the human brain.

One of the central challenges in the study of semantics is the problem of vagueness. Many words and phrases have fuzzy boundaries, making it difficult to determine their exact meaning in a given context. This is particularly evident in natural language, where speakers often use words in a way that is not strictly literal. For example, the word "tall" is a classic example of a vague term, as it is difficult to specify a precise height at which someone becomes "tall". This vagueness is a fundamental feature of natural language and has significant implications for the study of semantics. Another major challenge is the issue of ambiguity, where a single word or phrase can have multiple meanings. This can lead to misunderstandings and is a key area of research in the field. The study of semantics also involves exploring the relationship between language and thought, a topic that has been central to philosophy and psychology for centuries. How does language shape our understanding of the world? Can we think without language? These are some of the questions that drive research in the semantics of English.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the use of computational models to study semantics. These models use algorithms to process and analyze large amounts of linguistic data, allowing researchers to explore semantic phenomena in a way that was previously impossible. This has led to new insights into the structure and function of the semantic system.

Despite the progress made in the field, there are still many open questions and areas for further research. The study of semantics is a dynamic and evolving discipline, and it is exciting to see the new tools and techniques that are being developed to explore this fundamental aspect of human language. The future of semantics research lies in the integration of different approaches, combining the insights of linguistics, psychology, and computer science to build a more comprehensive understanding of how meaning works in the human mind. As we continue to uncover the secrets of the semantics of English, we will gain a deeper appreciation of the power and complexity of the language we use every day.

flowing Agawam.

The surrounding country was explored and valuable meadows were discovered on following up the banks of the river to a point some seven miles inland. These to the new settlers were particularly desirable since his cattle brought from the mother country, required hay for their sustenance, and the clearing of the almost unbroken forest was an undertaking requiring time and the assistance of many hands. Thus the New Meadows, as the locality was named, was much resorted to for the easily obtained meadow grass, and as the richness of the intervalle land was seen, settlers began to obtain grants and build their rude dwellings.

The earliest comers probably located about 1639 1640 as the following extract from the Colony records seems to show

"Whereas, at the Court holden at Boston the 4th, 7th mo. 1639, there was certain land lying near Ipswich River granted for a village, either to some of the inhabitants of Salem or some of the inhabitants of Ipswich who have farms near unto the said land, to be enjoyed by those who first settled a village there, they both propounding for it together; howsoever the order mentioneth only Salem inhabitants and for as much as the said inhabitants of Ipswich have for near this two years procured and maintained one to dispence the word of God unto them, which they intend to continue, it is therefore ordered and granted, that Mr. John Endecott and the said inhabitants of Ipswich, viz., Mr. Bradstreet, Mr. Symonds, Mr. Whittingham, Mr. William Paine, Mr. Robert Paine, and such other of Ipswich or Salem as they shall associate to themselves, shall have liberty to settle a village near the said river of Ipswich as it may be most convenient for them, to which the foresaid land shall belong, viz., all that which lieth near the said river (not formerly granted to any town or person), provided that any of the inhabitants of Salem, who have farms near unto the said land now granted, shall have liberty for one year next coming to joyne with the said village."

Mass. Colony Records.

Oct. 17, 1643.

Of the above named persons it is quite certain that one of them, Mr. Wm. Paine, resided in the new settlement, and he only at intervals, although Mr. Symonds for a part of the time may have lived on his farm known as "Olivers," which had

its southerly bounds on Pye Brook.

Of the settlers who were living at the New Meadows in 1645 we have the names of a few. Zaccheus Gould, Daniel Clark, the Redingtons, Abraham and John; Alexander Knight who dispensed the Word; Mr. Wm. Paine, the gentlemanly merchant; Walter Roper, carpenter; Wm. Howard and Isaac Cummings can probably be included in the list. Others followed, and in 1648 the villagers, feeling impressed with their growth and importance, petitioned the Court to bestow a name on "the village" at the New Meadows at Ipswich, which we suppose may be an encouragement to others to come to live amongst us; and also a means to further a ministry amongst us, we think that Hempstead will be a fit name if the Court please to gratify us herewith."

The petition was signed by Wm. Paine, Brian Pendleton and Zaccheus Gould. The town narrowly escaped being christened Hempstead as requested by the petitioners, for the deputies voted to grant the request; but when the court of magistrates came to consider the proposition, the action of the lower court was set aside and Toppesfield was substituted.

This action took place Oct. 18, 1648, and was probably influenced by Samuel Symonds, a large land owner in the village and an important Assistant. He had lived in the village of Toppesfield in the mother country, and no doubt was pleased to perpetuate the familiar name on the other side of the broad Atlantic. In 1650 Zaccheus Gould and William Howard, petitioned the Court to grant that Toppsfield should henceforth be a town and have power within itself to order all civil affairs, and on Oct. the 18th of that year the request was granted and Toppsfield began its separate corporate existence.

The settlement thus far without exception had been made on the north side of the river and by Ipswich people. No doubt the richer lands were sufficient inducement and the river Agawam itself served as a hindrance to the early occupation of the hills on its southerly side. In 1639 the Court had granted Mr. John Endecott 350 acres of land upon the Ipswich river on the north of Salem bounds. The court did not buy out the grant until





a number of years after, and then only at the repeated requests of Mr. Endecott at that time Governor of the Colony. Not until May 2, 1659 were the bounds set, having "a brook against Goodman Gould's land on the east, Blind Hole on the south, and the wilderness elsewhere surrounding the said farm, taking into the bounds thereof the swampy meadow land that lyeth on the south side of the river."

Evidences of the presence of copper ore were found on the hills in Blind Hole at the south of the river, and at the request of Gov. John Endecott the Court granted him Oct 14, 1651, "three hundred acres of woodland tending to the furtherance of a copper work he intends to set up in a place called Blind Hole, neer to a farm formerly granted him, the said land not being formerly granted, provided he set up his said works within seven years."

The Governor engaged Richard Leader, who had been superintending the iron works at Lynn, to open his copper mine but ill success followed the venture and copper mining in Topsfield was abandoned for the space of over one hundred years. In 1771 the Massachusetts Spy reported "that the copper-mine some time since opened in Topsfield at 12 or 15 feet depth, affords such samples of fine lively ore extended in spatterings all over the pit, that experienced miners have declared the appearances preferable to any yet discovered in America."

Tradition has it that a large quantity of ore was taken to Salem and loaded into ships sailing across the sea in order that it might be smelted on the other side. Unfortunately disaster intervened, and the ships were never heard from. Whether the magnetic currents from the north treacherously waved from ore to compass or chilly icebergs floated in the course of the ships, the sea alone can tell. So perished the copper industry in Topsfield.

About 1651 was built the bridge across the river now known as "the river bridge." Walter Roper and William Howard were the prime movers in the enterprise, both being land owners near by, and no doubt being moved by the growth of the town and the greater need

of pasturage and timber as well as to make it easier to reach Salem, Lynn and Boston. The bridge was probably a rude structure well in keeping with the blazed bridge path "leading to the south." In 1669 this path became a ways one pole wide, hilly and but little travelled.

On the southerly side of Ipswich river, Topsfield has about two thousand acres of land. At the time we are speaking of Gov. Endecott owned some five hundred acres, being Blind Hole and a portion of the earlier grant; Simon Bradstreet afterwards Governor, claimed about two hundred acres of rich meadow land in the more easterly part, while farmer Porter of Salem village claimed title to a portion reaching to the river. The villagers at Topsfield laid claim to the greater part of the remainder both upland and meadow, and in 1661 the selectmen, Ensigne Howlett, Francis Pabodye and John Redington were ordered to lay out five hundred acres of upland to remain common to perpetuity and at the same time to divide the remainder of the common land both upland and meadow into three equal divisions. The matter of individual ownership of this common land lay in obeyance until 1669, when the town met together and cast lots "that every one thereby may know what is his share and where it lies."

The lots were divided into three sizes, "single, double and treble" and were portioned out accordingly as the commoners had been rated in the ministers rate for 1664, fifty shillings, twenty shillings, and under twenty shillings.

The list contains thirty names, all but three, Mr. Bradstreet, Mr. Endecott and Uselton the Salem merchant, being resident in Topsfield and living on the north side of the river, with one exception, William Nichols who had in 1652 bought of Henry Bartholomew "a farm lying between the bounds of Salem and Ipswich river."

Following is the list which shows the heads of families and gives a basis on which to estimate the population of the town at that time, 1669, while the rating shows practically a tax list and the comparative wealth of the town.



Mr. Bradstreet	£ 2-17-02	Thos. Browning	£ 1-06-00
Mr. Perkins	2-03-09	Jacob Towne	1-94 05
Zacheus Gould	4-03 03	Isaac Estey	19 06
Mr. Baker	3-17-05	William Towne	1-12 07
Thos. Dorman	3-03-00	Edmond Towne	1-08-09
Francis Pabody	4-05-02	Matthew Standly	15 08
William Euens	2-11-00	Anthony Carell	11-01
Danlell Clark	1 04-05	John How	19-00
Isaac Cumings, senr.	13-08	Edmond Bredges	15 03
Isaac Cumings, junr.	1-08-00	William Nichols	1 12 09
Ensigne Howlett	1-08 09	Vsseltons Lott	-----
William Smith	13-08	Lumpkins feirne	-----
Francis Bates	09-00	Robt. Andrews land	12 00
Mr. Endicoat	1-02-00	So grew the village and prospered, and we today enjoy the full fruits of the foresight of our straight backed and stern-eyed ancestors from over the sea.	
John Wiles	1-12-10		
John Redington	3-05-02		
Thomas Perkins	2-19-07		

#### PETITION FROM IPSWICH FARMERS.

*To the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield in Town Meeting assembled,  
September ye 19: 1758.*

The Petition of us the Subscribers for our Selves and families Humbly Sheweth, That your Petitioners have always Laboured under Greate Difficulties Respecting our attending upon the Publick Worship of God—ye nearest of us Living near four Miles from the Publick Meeting Houses to which we belong and in a corner of The Parrishes Inhabited So that by Reason of the Distance & Difficalty of passing Especially in the Winter Season, it is Frequently impracticable for us and families to attend the Public Worship att our own Meeting Houses (as no doubt Gentlemen you are Sensible) & so have been obliged either to Tarry at Home or attend with you att Topsfield, where, Altho we must have been Burthensome yet we are always Ready to acknowledge we have been Treated with much kindness & Respect, & also Respecting the Grammar or any other Public Town School for ye Instruction of our Children. Such is our Situation that we can have no advan-

tage therefrom, unless we Board out our Children, which Inconveniency, with some others not Menshoned, we Humbly conceive might be in a Greate Measure Remedied by our being with our Estates (agreeable to a plan herewith Exhibited) Sett off from ye Town of Ipswich & annexed to ye Town of Topsfield, we therefore Humbly Pray that you wou Take our Case under your Consideration and Pass a Vote To Receive us our families and all ye Lands within ye plan aforementioned to be annexed to ye Town of Topsfield to be part and Percel thereof & to do Duty and Receive Privilege therein: Provided the Town of Ipswich agree thereto & the Greate and General Court Confirm ye same, & if ye Town of Ipswich Refuse to Sett us off, Join with us in Petitioning to ye Great and General Court to Sett us off to your Town, and your Petitioners as in Duty Bound Shall Ever Pray.

JOSEPH COMINGS,  
JOHN LAMPSON, JUNR.,  
ISRAEL CLARKE,  
JABEZ ROSS,

THOS. CUMMINGS,  
JOSEPH CUMINGS, JUNER,  
JOHN LAMPSON YE THIRD,







UNIFORM OF WARREN BLURS.



THE SOLDIER OF THE FUTURE

# Topsfield Warren Blues.

OLD TIME MASSACHUSETTS INDEPENDENT INFANTRY.

BY BENJAMIN J. BALCH.

The great merit of the Topsfield Warren Blues as a military company, and the great esteem with which the people regarded their infantry, deserves that its history should have been confided to abler hands. If the work which is here presented contains any merit it should in justice be ascribed to the subject alone. Its numerous defects the author can impute to no one but himself.

The interest which was taken in forming infantry companies sixty years ago was not confined to this locality alone. Almost every town in the commonwealth had its favorite independent infantry. The amusements of the people were centered mainly in the training days which brought out the gay uniforms, shining equipments and the animating march and drill of the soldiers to the sound of martial music.

The amusements and habits of the people sixty years ago were very different from those of the present day. More hours were given to labor every day through the year, boys were given scarcely a holiday through the year unless it was when the wonderful training day came round. In contrasting the habits of the people in those days with one whose memory goes back to that period he says "I remember well the single holiday given me for the year to go to Georgetown to see the parade of the Boxford Washington Guards and Topsfield Warren Blues. After my morning chores upon the farm were done, with six cents given me for spending money, which I counted a great sum, I ran all the way to Georgetown, seven miles, without resting so as to get there in season to hear the first drum beat. I have a recollection also, he says, of an experience that day

of a serious nature. With three of my six cents given me for spending money I bought an orange. My other three cents I laid up for safe keeping. My orange I ate peel and all, which made me so sick that it gives me a painful sensation even now to think of it."

The prudent habits in childhood of Dean Perley, which was the boy's name, followed him in after years. He has been a successful man in his business in the neighboring town of Danvers and is now hale and jolly as he was fifty-five years ago when he ran through the woods of Boxford to get early on the training ground. The training day then was about all that brought the people together, old or young, except the always fall attended church on Sunday. In contrast with the condition of society at that time we now have some half a dozen secret orders besides numerous other organizations, the public library and the Sunday newspaper. With all these provisions for the intellectual, moral and religious welfare of the people, it is somewhat doubtful if the conditions of the people are greatly advanced from what they were sixty years ago.

The chief motive of forming the Infantry company, says Mr. Wm. E. Kimball, one of the prime movers in the enterprise, was *for the fun of it*. Military drill, discipline and march to the sound of martial music was a joyous excitement. The gay uniforms, the shining equipages and the name of Infantry added to the interest. Back of it all the inspiring motive—the spirit of patriotism.

The captain of the old Militia, Nathaniel Conant, who was to be captain of the Infantry, was an officer in whom they all could take pride. He was then in the





prime of life, being 40 years of age, of fine military bearing and possessed a thorough knowledge of the art military, a quality which he inherited from his great ancestor, Roger Conant. Bancroft, speaking of Conant in his history, says "he was a man of extraordinary vigor. Inspired as if by some superior instinct he succeeded in breathing his sublime courage into his three companions, and they resolved to remain at the hazard of their lives as sentinels of the birth of American freedom."

"The Topsfield Warren Blues was organized, June 1836."

This is the wording of record kept by A. S. Peabody, clerk of the company, which is the only writing found among his papers which has any reference to the company. The person who came in possession of the record book of the company after it was disbanded, regarded it of no value and it became torn and defaced and finally it went to the waste basket. Independent Infantry companies are not registered at the State department. We are indebted to the kindness of Mr. John H. Towne for a copy of papers relating to the company which he had preserved from his father's papers, who was a member of the company. They read as follows:—

Topsfield, Aug. 26, 1835.

TO MR. BENJAMIN B. TOWNE:

Your first assessment for uniform and equipments is \$20.00 which you are requested to pay to the clerk of the Light Infantry on or before the 12th of September next.

Per order of standing committee,

WILLIAM E. KIMBALL, Chairman.

Topsfield, Sept. 10, 1836.

Received of Benjamin B. Towne the sum of \$20.00, it being his first assessment for uniform and equipments.

A. S. PEABODY, Clerk.

Topsfield, Sept. 28, 1836.

Received of Benjamin B. Towne the sum of \$20.00, it being his second and third assessments for a uniform and equipments.

A. S. PEABODY, Clerk.

Topsfield, Nov. 16, 1837.

You being duly enrolled as a member

of the T. W. Blues are hereby directed to appear in citizen's dress at Capt. William Munday's Tavern on Thursday, the 16th of November, at one o'clock to choose a Lieutenant and fill all vacancies that may appear or occur.

Per order of commander.

A. S. PEABODY, Clerk.

What further items we have gathered of the history of the company we learn from the few members of the company now living, and from various other sources. We are cautioned, however, not to rely too much upon memory or tradition to frame a history. Yet we have some warrant in standing fast and holding to the memory and tradition of the Elders. The finest literary productions the world has ever known, which form a part of the classic literature taught in our schools, were transmitted down by memory from generation to generation, ages before the invention of the alphabet. "Memory was the mother of the muses," their language the songs of the minstrel. To memory alone we owe the preservation of those lofty strains of poetic inspiration as they were transmitted down those far off ages.

In the preliminary arrangements for the formation of the Infantry company there occurred an incident which caused great division in the company, and came well nigh breaking up the organization. It was then toward the latter part of President Jackson's second term of office and political excitement was running high. Jackson had been chiefly noted during his administration for coercing the rebellious spirit of South Carolina into obedience, and for destroying the United States Bank. This administration had also been noted for being rather expensive in comparison with the preceding one under John Quincy Adams. The person who had been selected by the ladies to purchase the banner with an appropriate motto, was a staunch Adams man or Whig, as the party was called. He conceived the idea that patriotic principles might be represented on the banner even if there was a slight hint at the politics of the times. The yearly expense of the government under the Adams administration had been thirteen million dollars,



that of Jackson thirty-nine million. Upon one side of the banner was to be painted the portrait of Warren underneath the words "To die for ones' country is both sweet and honorable." Upon the other side of the banner it was to read "From 13 million to 39 million." The object of this was to show the contrast in the expense of the government under a Whig administration and under a Democratic. Luke R. Prince of Beverly, a celebrated painter, was engaged to do the work. The committee man kept his counsel and watched for the banner. In due time the beautiful silk banner came with the portrait of Warren painted on one side as directed, on the other side no 13 million to 39 appeared, but instead the picture of a doukey with stubborn disposition depicted on his countenance. Here was mischief. Who did this? Where did this work come from? was demanded by every member of the company. No one could explain, but there was suspicion that certain Democrats in the company were "in it." There was such discord that it appeared the company would disband at once. It was then but a few days to the time fixed for the formal ceremony of presenting the banner to the company. Arrangements were nearly completed, nearly two thousand dollars had been expended for uniforms and equipments, costing each member \$40, and the bright and glorious prospects of the company had apparently come to an end; but, in the midst of discord and confusion, a faint ray of light was allowed to break in on the darkness. From some unknown source came word that the motto on the banner originated from no member of the company. This changed the aspect of affairs. In their glow of patriotism no one wished to disband the company if it could be avoided. As the matter was explained they began to look on the affair as a huge joke. It finally settled down that the Democrats, or Locofocos, as they were called, were satisfied with the picture, as a doukey stood for firmness which trait in this animal they regarded as representing Jackson's character, while the Whigs said the picture was a fair resemblance of an ape, an animal which they regarded Jackson

resembled both in looks and character. In this construction of the matter the subject rested, every one enjoying his own conclusions.

Long time afterward it came to light that the inevitable clown in the drama of affairs in town, either secular or sacred, had put his foot into the subject. He had gained access to the painter of the banner in behalf of the committee for the purpose of making a change in the motto. It may be supposed the painter readily complied with the request, as he also was a Democrat or Locofoco. For prudent reasons it is thought best that the name of the chief conspirator in this affair be withheld till a certain event transpires, which, in the course of nature, sooner or later comes to all. Everything was now bustle and stir in preparation for the formal reception of the banner. The Boxford Washington Guards, William Low, commander, were invited to be present on the occasion. The celebrated Boston Brass Band, Joseph Green, leader, was engaged for the day. This was the band which was led at one time by the celebrated performer on the bugle, Ned Kendal, and later by Arthur Hall. Mr. Hall had a gold bugle presented to him as a compliment to his great merit as a performer on the bugle. This was before the gold basis excitement, other than what was caused by the gold in this rare instrument. The banner was to be presented to the company (with an appropriate address) by one of Topsfield's fairest daughters, Miss Sally Munday, who was chosen for this duty by the ladies of the town.

The mode of travelling long distances in those days was by stage. This occasion was two years previous to the opening of the railroad for travel between Boston and Salem. The Boston Brass Band therefore must come to Topsfield by stage. A stage ride from Boston to Topsfield was an adventure which few in these years would care to undertake. It was run or trot the horses all the distance up hill and down from start to finish. The relays between Boston and Newburyport were at Lynnfield and at Cummings' in Topsfield. The names of Mendon, Plinkham, Tuttle and Conant are





familiar to the older people whose memory goes back to those joyous days as the gallant stage drivers who passed daily over the Turnpike between Boston and Newburyport. The sensation they caused among the young people is remembered as they reined into town four in hand blowing their stage horns as the signal of approach. Great was the commotion at Cummings' on hearing the sound of the stage horn. The clattering of dishes and glasses; the delicious odor of rich viands and cordials betokened the bounteous table always to be found at Cummings' Hotel. This celebrated hostelry became the favorite resort of the Warren Blues on many a festive occasion in after years. It is remembered that a learned parrot lived for many years in the barroom at this place. When the parrot heard the sound of the stage horn he always gave notice to the trusty man of affairs in a loud, distinct voice, saying "Uncle Jones, stage coming" and to the faithful cook, "Granny Bowdoin, get dinner, stage coming." On the occasion of the presentation of the banner to the Warren Blues the extra stages which brought the band from Boston were to stop at the new Hotel kept by Captain William Munday. It was this Captain's daughter who was to deliver the address and present the banner to the new company. Captain Munday gained his commission in the government service as captain of a company of Cavalry. This company had then been sometime disbanded. The last time they met for choice of officers, which was at Newburyport, the company had dwindled down to so few in number that it took the whole company to fill the offices except one man. The officers took pity on the poor lone trooper and began to cast about to make him an office. "Don't trouble yourselves," said Thomas Moore, the trooper's name, "I had rather be a whole company than one single officer."

Early on Thursday, the 27th of October, 1836, strangers began to gather into the little town nestled away among the hills where freedom had its birth, and soon a great multitude thronged the village. This was the day the Infantry company was to receive its banner; the place

appointed for the reception was on the compass in front of the Academy. The armory of the company was in the academy building. Early in the morning the company met at their armory, from whence they marched to the Buxford line and escorted the Buxford Washington Guards to the elegant mansion of their generous townsman, Asa Pingree, Esq., where they partook of a splendid collation. At two o'clock General Lowe, Major Stone, the two companies and invited guests dined at Captain Munday's Hotel. They were served with a most sumptuous dinner. These munificent tokens of respect, so politely and gratuitously tendered, excited the gratitude of all who partook of such liberal entertainment. After dinner the two companies, with the citizens joining, were escorted by the Brass Band to the grounds in front of the Academy. Miss Sally Munday, then coming forward and standing on the steps of the building arrayed in white, the flag in her right hand, addressed the company in these words:—

"Soldiers: It is with patriotic pride in the name of the ladies of Topsfield I present you this banner and bid you emulate the virtues and military talent of the undaunted Warren, whose name you have chosen. Should the Independence ever be endangered, which he and his associates gained for you, may you arm with the same zeal and conquer in the cause of freedom. Who among you will shrink from following this standard in defense of his country and his home? Who will refuse to make himself a supporter of the liberty so nobly gained by the heroes of the Revolution, and who, as the silken folds of this sustained pennant are cast to the free air of Heaven, will forget that God arms the hand and shields the heart of the patriot? In this faith may you ever be found amid the guardians which Heaven sends to protect the freedom of our happy land. May you never rally round this banner staff save in a rightful cause."

The address was given with that grace of manner and force of expression, which called forth the loud cheers of the people. After the response by the band, Captain Nathaniel Conant replied to the address





as follows:

"Madam: In the name of the Topsfield Warren Blues we gratefully accept and tender our most respectful acknowledgment to the ladies of Topsfield for this very beautiful standard. We hope the name we have selected for our corps will ever prompt us to deeds of valor, and that in the service of our country we shall always follow without shaming the immortal image borne upon this flag, and our homes, ever dear, will possess new and increased value from the manifestations which the ladies of Topsfield have been pleased to make to us in regard to our corps. We profess to train and prepare ourselves for the protection of virtue, the defense of liberty and independence, the security of our institutions, civil, literary and religious, relying for aid in such important duties upon a continuance of your favorable regards and the smiles of Heaven; and hope we shall be ready at all times to adopt the motto inscribed on our banner, "To die for one's country is both sweet and honorable." The address of Capt. Conant was also received with great applause.

After the banner was received. Capt. Conant placed it in the hand of William E. Kimball, who had been chosen bearer of the banner by the company. General Lowe then gave a sentiment in which he most happily alluded to the protection the ladies so justly merited from the soldiers and citizens of our happy and glorious Republic. In the evening the lovers of music were entertained at the hotel in the most pleasing manner by the performances of the band. There was also a grand ball that evening at Cummings'.

The day was fine and the whole exhibition was brilliant and gratifying. To be definite concerning the apparel of the fair orator for the occasion, her dress was white muslin, low neck, short sleeves, blue trimmings and long mitts. Not long after this eventful day Miss Munday was married to the Lieutenant of the company, Lemuel Holten Gould, whom it is said she captured on this occasion and held him her prisoner. Lieutenant Gould was afterward promoted captain of the company, Capt. Conant being promoted

Maj. of Brigade. We are indebted to the daughter of Mrs. Gould, Mrs. Ann Gould Ferguson, for a copy of the address. Many incidents of interest occurred during the day in connection with the celebration, but the space which is allotted for this paper will not permit us to make record. We shall therefore pass to a few of the prominent points of interest in connection with this company.

The music employed by the company for regular duty, or the company band so-called, is of next importance to the company itself. This band was composed of seven members, called the McKenzie Band, part of the members belonging in West Ipswich or Freetown, so called, and part in Topsfield. The leader of the band, Alfred McKenzie, played B flat bugle. This was before the invention of the cornet of latter days. It appears by the scriptures there was an instrument that went by that name several thousand years ago. Addison McKenzie, a brother of Alfred, also played B flat bugle. Samuel McKenzie, brother, played trombone; Joseph Chapman, clarinet; William Spiller, flie; John B. Lake, son of Silas Lake who many years ago was a famous player on snare drum, played bass drum; and Ephraim Averill played on the snare drum. For a country band in those days it was considered good music. If the Boston brass band excelled in practice, the McKenzie band was not wanting in the knowledge of the theory of music. For genius and quaint originality of character, some of the members of this band were greatly distinguished. They were greatly liked by the Warren Blues and continued to be the company's band so long as they preserved their organization. Out of the seven members of the band, four are still living, all over eighty years of age, Ephraim Averill, Alfred McKenzie, Joseph Chapman and William Spiller. Out of the whole company, 36 when organized, five only are living. In contrast it speaks favorably for the profession of a musician so far as it pertains to length of days. Mr. Joseph Chapman, to whom I am indebted for much information concerning the band and company, is remarkably well preserved for a man of his age. In speaking with him a few days





ago of incidents in connection with the presentation of the flag, said he, "I think I can recall some of the first part of Miss Munday's address. Wasn't it something this way, 'Soldiers: It is with patriotic pride I present you this banner?'" These words were accurately remembered by Mr. Chapman after merely hearing them uttered nearly sixty years ago.

Incidents of interest which happened on training days are remembered by the old people and told with great enjoyment. It was on the day of Brigade muster, which occurred in Topfield in the fall of 1839 or 1840. The field appropriated for this purpose was the land where now are the residences of Mrs. Herrick, Miss Ray and Frederick Merriam, extending back as far as the land of Mrs. Kimball's. From this place up to Captain Munday's Hotel, on that day the ground was covered with gambling tables, roulette, dice and other gambling inventions. The crowd that occupied these tables was chiefly from Boston. Money in great abundance was seen on the tables and rapidly changing hands from one to another. As it was exposed to public view it greatly annoyed the citizens of the town. In the afternoon, as soon as the companies were dismissed, a platoon of the Warren Blues was seen charging on the double quick in the direction of the gambling tables. In an instant, dice, roulette tables, money and all were overturned and rolling in a broken mass on the ground. The gamblers fled for their lives. This incident reflected great credit on the Warren Blues and made them respected by every citizen in the town. It was a custom, as has been observed, for the Warren Blues on training days to visit Cummings' Hotel situated upon the turnpike. It was a pleasant march there as there was a fine view at that place of the surrounding country. They were on their return on this particular occasion from this hospitable resort, when the old militia company, which was obliged by law to come out at May training, had formed on the common and were on the march towards the same resort which the Warren Blues had just visited. There was some feeling existing between the two companies caused partly by the contrast in the uniforms and equipage,

partly by the great crowd which followed the Infantry showing by this their partiality to the gay uniforms. On the level ground near the brook, where the two companies were to pass each other, was a large puddle of water which was caused by the recent rains and the formation of the road, which was made in that place to hold the water. Such a place is not a rare thing in these days. It was noticed before reaching the spot where they were to pass; a member of the militia company stepped from the ranks and took a stone from the wall and concealed it under his coat. When they were just opposite the water the man threw the stone with great force into the water, which splashed the mud and water over many of the gay uniforms. This brought out a rousing cheer from the militia. In conversing with an old lady, wife of one of the infantry, she says "you can't think how much work it cost us to keep those uniforms clean. Every time they trained," she said, "we had to remove the red stripe from the white trousers (she called them trousers,) as the red would mix in with the white if washed together, and we had to take off all the buttons from the coats to scour them. It was a deal of work, but," she said, "we wimmen enjoyed looking at the soldiers, all the same." There really was no personal feeling between the members of the two companies. The man who threw the stone that splashed the mud on the uniforms was one of the best friends of the Infantry. He, like many others of the militia, contributed generously to their support. He gave them on the occasion of their organization his peculiar name, which he gave for special objects, \$33.33 1/3 and managed some way to make the change himself. He was no other than Asa Plunree, who entertained them so generously at his mansion on the occasion of the reception of their banner.

For want of time we can merely allude to the sham fight at the Brigade muster in Boxford, in the fall of 1838, which reflected great credit on the discipline of the Warren Blues, also their visit at Bunker Hill, 4th of July, 1842, on the occasion of celebrating the completion of Bunker Hill monument, Daniel Webster





delivering the oration. How long the organization continued we have no record. Independent companies received a bounty of five dollars a soldier. In 1845 they received the last bounties of which they have a record. About this time the law providing for this bounty was repealed and the company disbanded.

We now come to that part of the history of the company of chiefest importance. What mean the letters on that cap and knapsack, T. W. B., Topsfield Warren Blues? What did the name of Warren signify to that company? What does the name of Warren signify to us? In answer to this question we point to the Nation. There she is--behold her!

As we consider the many millions that have been affected by the name Warren, the increasing millions who are yet to follow, it is fitting to note if we are guided by the same compass that directed that great leader in the principles that laid the foundation of the Great Republic. In the library of the state department is a volume of manuscripts of great value. They are the original responses sent by the Massachusetts towns to the committee of correspondence, Samuel Adams, Joseph Warren and James Otis, who had asked the people to convene together and express their feelings and opinion in regard to the infringements of Parliament on the rights of the people, so that, in the answers returned, the collected wisdom and fortitude of the whole people might dictate measures for the rescue of their happy and glorious constitution." One of those papers is from Topsfield signed by Captain Samuel Smith, Captain John Boardman and Deacon John Gould, a committee chosen by the town to forward their answer.

We honor and revere the men of the Revolution for their bravery in the hour of battle, but their courage dates back to the principles which inspired them, the preparation for the coming event. The collected wisdom and fortitude of the people, as expressed through these papers from the different towns, inspired them with courage for the coming conflict. It laid the foundation of the first government of the people on the earth, created by the people and for the people. It was

sealed in the blood of the immortal Warren. Surrounding that great spirit are gathered a great multitude who have given their lives to defend the government that the Nation might live and not perish from the earth. As we dedicate this evening to the memory of our patriot fathers, it is fitting that we renew our vows of fidelity to the principles for which they gave their "*last, full measure of devotion.*"

#### ROSTER OF THE COMPANY.

	Commissioned
Capt. Nathaniel Conant	June 30, 1836
Capt. Lemuel H. Gould	Dec. 24, 1840
1st Lieut. Nathaniel Perley	June 30, 1836
1st Lieut. Joel Lake	Nov. 16, 1837
1st Lieut. Thos. P. Munday	Dec. 24, 1840
2d Lieut. Thos. P. Munday	May 27, 1840
2d Lieut. Thomas Gould	Dec. 24, 1840
3d Lieut. Thomas Gould	May 27, 1840
Ensign Joel Lake	June 30, 1836
Ensign Nehemiah Balch	Nov. 16, 1837
Surgeon Joseph C. Batchelder	
Surgeon's Mate, Joseph Lloyd Wellington	
Chaplain, Leonard B. Griffin	

Capt. Nat'l Conant was promoted Sept. 7, 1840, major and inspector of the 4th Brigade, Mass. Lt. Infantry.

Lieut. Nat'l. Perley was promoted major Aug. 8, 1837, Lieut. Col. Sept. 6, 1838, Colonel Mar. 27, 1839 and Brigadier General of the 4th Mass. Light Infantry Sept. 4, 1840.

ADAMS, BENJAMIN F. Came from N. H., was a farmer and shoemaker, built the house now owned by Levi Beal, removed to Reading, Mass., about 1875 and died there in 1888, aged 80.

ADAMS, BENJAMIN. Came from Middleton, Mass. was a shoemaker by trade, built the house now occupied by J. J. Hardy, was popularly known as "Little Ben." Died in Topsfield in 1849, aged 36.

ANDREWS, AARON A. Born in Topsfield, a butcher by trade and employed by T. P. Munday, enlisted in 23d Mass. Infantry, but was never mustered in to the service. Died in Topsfield in 1877, aged 54.



- ATKINSON, WILLIAM D.** Came to Topsfield from Lynn, worked at his trade, house painting, for a short time and removed to Boston.
- AVERILL, AARON PERLEY.** Born in Topsfield, a shoemaker by trade, removed to Georgetown and died there in 1865, aged 55.
- BALCH, NEHEMIAH** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1884, aged 77. Was a shoe manufacturer, served the town as treasurer and assessor, was ensign of the company.
- BATCHELDER, JOSEPH CUMMINGS.** Came from Boxford, was an excellent physician, removed to Templeton, Mass. in 1850 after practicing medicine in Topsfield nearly fifteen years; he was the successor of Jeremiah Stone, M. D., who removed to Provincetown, Mass. in 1836. Dr. Batchelder built the house now owned and occupied by John Bailey; he was representative to the General Court in 1846, was the inventor of the boring machine that was used for a time while the Hoosac Tunnel was being constructed, proving at that time a partial failure, enlisted as surgeon in the 23d Mass. Vols., but saw little service; was surgeon of the company of "Blues."
- BASSETT, DAVID.** Came from Gloucester and learned the wheelwright's trade with Thomas K. Leach, removed to Beverly (?)
- BLAISDELL, JAMES.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1856, aged 32, a shoemaker by trade.
- BRACKETT, CHARLES C.** Came from Wolfboro, N. H., was a carpenter by trade and built many of the older houses now standing in town, also in 1848 the church at Linebrook parish. He lived in town about ten years removing to Ipswich in 1848 and afterwards to Quincy, Mass., where he died about 1880. Represented the town at the General Court in 1843.
- BRADSTREET, JOHN.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1847, aged 36, was a shoemaker, at one time living in Boxford.
- BRADSTREET, WILLIAM.** Born in Topsfield, a farmer, and is now living in Danvers.
- CHAPMAN, EDWARD A.** He was a cabinet maker by trade and also worked as a housepainter. Removed to Haverhill.
- CHAPMAN, JOHN K.** Came from Linebrook Parish, Ipswich, shoemaker and farmer. Is now living in Ipswich.
- CLARK, DAVID.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1880, aged 66. Farmer. Selectman for a number of years.
- CONANT, NATHANIEL.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1872, aged 76. Was captain of the "Blues" at their organization, afterwards being promoted to be major and brigade inspector of the 4th Brigade Mass. Light Infantry. He represented the town twice at the General Court, in 1854 and 1863.
- CROWELL, JOSIAH.** Came from Salem, was a shoemaker by trade. Died in Topsfield in 1889, aged 85.
- CURRIER, MOSES J.** Came from Enfield, N. H., was a clerk in F. & N. Perley's general store, and after living in town about three years removed to Danvers, where he died in 1892.
- DODGE, FRANCIS.** Lived in Hamilton, was a farmer.
- ELLIOT, CHARLES A.** Born in Topsfield, was a shoemaker and farmer. Removed to Danvers about 1855 and died there in 1895.
- GALLUP, WILLIAM PORTER.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1890, aged 80. Was a shoe bottom finisher, also engaged in the undertaking business for a number of years, built the house now occupied by his son W. W. Gallup, was sergeant in the company.
- GIFFORD, WILLIAM R.** Came from Salem, removed to the state of New York in 1843 or 4. Farmer.
- GOULD, ABRAHAM H.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1879, aged 61. Carried on a large butchering business, was selectman for a number of years.
- GOULD, CHARLES.** Born in Topsfield, shoemaker. Is still living.
- GOULD, EMERSON P.** Born in Topsfield. A schoolmaster in his younger days, afterwards learning the butchering business. Enlisted in the 48th Mass. Vols., and died in the hospital at





- Baton Rouge, La., June 5, 1863, aged 51, from the effects of an injury received in the slaughter house connected with the army headquarters.
- GOULD, JONATHAN PORTER.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1860, aged 46. Carried on a large butchering business.
- GOULD, JOSIAH L.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1880, aged 63. Was a farmer, built the house now owned by Horace Bradstreet.
- GOULD, LEMUEL HOLTON.** Born in Topsfield in 1809, farmer. Went to California in 1858, living there until his death at Sacramento in 1877. Was captain of the company succeeding Capt. Nathaniel Conant in 1840.
- GOULD, THOMAS.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1882, aged 75, was a farmer, superintendent of the almshouse for nearly 12 years, a selectman, and represented the town at the General Court in 1849. Served as 2d and 3d lieutenant of the company.
- GRIFFIN, LEONARD B.** A minister in the Methodist Episcopal church. Born in Connecticut, came to Topsfield from Gloucester, preached in Topsfield in 1840-1, a successful charge, twenty five joining the church while under his care. From Topsfield he went to Cambridgeport; was chaplain of the company.
- HOOD, JOHN GOULD.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1858, aged 51. Was an able school master in his younger days, afterwards a farmer and justice of the peace, also holding many offices in the town government. For a great many years he manufactured coffins, supplying Topsfield and the adjoining towns.
- HUBBARD, HUMPHREY GOULD.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1847, aged 40. Shoemaker.
- JANES, SAMUEL.** Born in Salem and died in Topsfield in 1873, aged 71. Was a shoemaker, afterwards engaging in the express business between Topsfield and Salem, carrying it on about ten years.
- KIMBALL, BENJAMIN.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1882, aged 80. Manufactured a high grade of boots: was town treasurer 1853-61.
- KIMBALL, WILLIAM E.** Born in Topsfield, carried on a blacksmithing business in his earlier days, but afterwards engaged in the grocery and East India goods business; died in Danvers, Nov., 1895, aged 91.
- LAKE, DAVID, JR.** Born in Topsfield. A farmer, but at one time carried on a shoe manufacturing business, became infected with the gold fever in 1852 and started for California by way of the Isthmus. Reached Panama in safety and with some seventy others chartered a small schooner and sailed for San Francisco. The vessel was insufficiently provisioned and nearly half of those on board died of starvation and found a watery grave. The survivors finally reached the California coast and after spending four years in the state Mr. Lake returned to Topsfield April 4, 1859. He started for California a second time and on the 28th died in the Pacific ocean on the upward voyage from Panama, aged 62.
- LAKE, ELIAZER, JR.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1867, aged 57. He was a farmer and shoemaker; was held in great repute as a hunter.
- LAKE, JOHN BROWN.** Born in Boston and died in Boxford in 1878, aged 61. Was a farmer and shoemaker. Started for California in 1852, reached Panama, but was unable to obtain passage for San Francisco and returned to Topsfield. Enlisted in the 23d Mass. Inf., was base drummer in McKenzie's band.
- LAKE, JOEL.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1860, aged 57. Shoe manufacturer and nurseryman.
- LAMSON, JOSIAH B.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1868 aged 53. Farmer.
- LANE, THOMAS L.** Born in Gloucester and died in Topsfield in 1856, aged 40. Was a boot and shoe manufacturer, selectman for many years.
- LEACH, THOMAS KIMBALL.** Came from Wrentham and died in Topsfield in 1892, aged 77. Carried on a wheelwright business for 57 years.
- LEMONT, STEPHEN W.** Came from Litch-





- field, Me., and died in Topsfield in 1844 aged 27. Was a blacksmith.
- LEWIS, FREDERICK A.** Came from Salem: was a sailor by profession but worked at shoemaking, at one time sailed in coasting and fishing vessels. The Gloucester boat of which he was first mate was lost on the Grand Banks, not a man returning to tell the tale.
- LONG, HENRY.** Came from No. Andover, Mass., and died in Topsfield in 1871, aged 52. Blacksmith and stable keeper. He at one time trained with the Washington Guards of Boxford.
- MCKENZIE, ADDISON.** Born in Topsfield and died in Dover, N. H., in 1866, aged 44. He was a machinist by trade; played B flat bugle in McKenzie's band.
- MCKENZIE, ALFRED.** Born in Topsfield and is now living in Peabody. Shoe manufacturer. Leader of McKenzie's band, playing B flat bugle.
- MCKENZIE, CONSTANTINE.** Born in Topsfield, a carpenter by trade, went to California in 1852 and is now living in San Francisco.
- MCKENZIE, SAMUEL S.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1891, aged 81. Civil engineer and jeweller; selectman and representative to the General Court in 1852. Played trombone in McKenzie's band.
- MOORE, THOMAS.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1868, aged 66. Butcher. Was standard bearer of the company.
- MUNDAY, THOMAS P.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1862, aged 45. Carried on a large butchering business, was 1st and 2d lieutenant of the company.
- PEABODY, AUGUSTINE SIMONDS.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1884, aged 73. Was a school teacher, shoe cutter, and at one time engaged in the stock brokerage business in Boston. For nearly forty years he was superintendent of the Sunday school connected with the Congregational church. Served the town as selectman for nine years; was orderly sergeant of the company.
- PEABODY, FRANCIS DANA.** Born in Topsfield and died in Rowley in 1891, aged 75; bootmaker.
- PEABODY, THOMAS, JR.** Born in Topsfield and died in Georgetown in 1872, aged 47. Shoemaker. Enlisted in the 23d Mass. Vols.
- PEABODY, WILLIAM CUMMINGS.** Born in Topsfield and is now living in Georgetown. Shoemaker. At the present time (1895) is the oldest fireman living in Mass.
- PERKINS, AMOS, JR.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1894, aged 84. Shoe manufacturer.
- PERKINS, NATHANIEL, JR.** Born in Wenham and died in Topsfield in 1846, aged 32. Farmer.
- PERKINS, NEREMIAH, JR.** Born in Topsfield, died in Auburn, Me., in 1892, aged 71. Farmer and shoemaker.
- PERKINS, ROBERT SUMNER.** Born in Topsfield, school teacher, removed to Danvers and engaged in the soap business. Is still living in Danvers. Was sergeant in the company.
- PERLEY, HUMPHREY.** Born in Ipswich. Is now living in Boxford, farmer.
- PERLEY, JOHN, JR.** Born in Ipswich and was found dead in Topsfield in 1880 aged 76. Farmer.
- PERLEY JOHN FRANCIS, Jr.** Born in Boxford and died in Topsfield in 1893, aged 69. Shoemaker and carpenter.
- PERLEY, NATHANIEL.** Born in Boxford died in Topsfield in 1864, aged 37. Carpenter and shoemaker.
- PERLEY, NATHANIEL.** Born in Topsfield and died in Boston in 1842, aged 43. Kept general and East India goods store, 1st lieutenant of the company at its organization, promoted through the various grades until Sept. 4, 1840, he was commissioned Brigadier General of the 4th Brigade Mass. Light Infantry. Represented the town at the General Court in 1838.
- PERLEY, OSGOOD.** Born in Boxford and died in Topsfield in 1886, aged 71. Butcher.
- PHILLIPS, ANDREW JACKSON.** Born in Salem. Shoemaker and farmer. For a number of years sailed from New Bedford on whaling voyages, enlisted in 3d Mass. Inf. Arty. Now living in Linebrook Parish, Ipswich.
- PHILLIPS, JOHN.** Born in Topsfield. Farmer. Killed in 1840 by being



thrown from a horse. Was buried from the house of Joel Lake with military honors from the "Warren Blues."

**POTTER, JOHN H.** Born in Ipswich. Carpenter and house builder. Built a number of houses in Topsfield and is still living there, working at his trade. Represented the town at the General Court in 1881; selectman for a number of years.

**SMALL, ISAIAH M.** Came from Alton, N. H. Shoemaker and carpenter, constable for many years. Removed to New York state.

**STILES, FREDERICK.** Born in Middleton. Shoe manufacturer. Still living in Topsfield.

**TAYLOR, TROWBRIDGE CURTIS.** Born in Weymouth, Mass. Came to Topsfield from Linebrook Parish. Shoe maker. Enlisted in 23d Mass. Vols., as musician. Removed to Ipswich and died there in 1893.

**TODD, JOHN.** Born in Ipswich. Shoemaker and farmer. Died in Topsfield in 1865, aged 49.

**TOWNE, BENJAMIN B.** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1888, aged 75. Farmer and shoemaker; selectman 1854-6.

**WATT, WILLIAM** Born in Topsfield and died there in 1888 aged 77. Shoemaker and expressman. Was blind the last years of his life.

**WELLINGTON, JOSEPH LLOYD.** Came from Templeton, Mass. Was a medical student, studying with Dr. Batchelder, his brother-in-law. Surgeon's Mate of the company.

**WILDES, MOSES, 2d.** Born in Topsfield died there in 1895, aged 84. Shoemaker.

**WHIPPLE, JOHN S.** Came from Hamilton. Butcher. Died in So. Tamworth, N. H., in 1883 aged 59.

**WRIGHT, JAMES.** Blacksmith. Removed to Lowell.









## The Trial of Elizabeth Porter Bradstreet for the Crime of Arson.

BY MRS. THEODORE W. HAVEN.

"Stand still, my steed,  
Let me review the scene  
And summon from the shadowy Past  
The forms that once have been."

Down the aisles of memory come trooping myriads of shadowy figures and fancies, ghastly remembrances of childhood's imaginative, dreamy hours.

Perhaps the first distinctive one is that of attending divine service in the meeting house, as it was generally called in those days. Now its more familiar appellation is the church. Clearly do I recall its external appearance of three decades ago. The vast area of its bare, white-washed walls, the hieroglyphic marks across their surface made by cracks in the plastering; the vivid impression of one of them back of the wing pews on the west side of the nave has never been effaced from memory's camera. It ascended and descended in regular lines like steps and somehow I associated it with the ladder ascending into Heaven, as narrated in the story of "Jacob's dream."

Well do I remember the rising of a gray haired man who used to sit in one of the east wing pews, during prayer service. I could never reconcile his standing up, while the rest of the men in the congregation remained seated. Often I wondered if it were a penalty for something he had done amiss. I have since learned it was a custom handed down from our "Puritan ancestors," a visible protest against the kneeling ceremony of the "Established Church." Doubtless his fathers from the third generation back had done likewise; his grand-children follow not the custom, for it has become obsolete.

Shall I forego mention of the preacher who occupied the pulpit whose words of exhortation, warning and prayer were heard from it for so many years and per-

chance find a responsive echo in the souls of some of my hearers? Indeed, no! In those days I had only a child's acquaintance with him, a feeling of awe and respect when he spoke to me, a sense of having been greatly honored if perchance he grasped my hand. In after years these emotions were only intensified by a more intimate acquaintance, a fuller appreciation of the grand, noble qualities of his mind and soul. Measured by the agnostic standards of today doubtless he would be reckoned as narrow in his theology, by the criticism of the "Andover heresy" as bigoted in his views, but by the measure "pure in heart," majestically he towers among his contemporaries and successors as well.

Deep set in the recesses of these childish memories is the picture of a woman's face, her form bowed by the infirmities of age; plainly I see her before me, "in my mind's eye;" even to the details of her costume, a "paisley" shawl, which she invariably wore, a black, embroidered, Spanish lace veil, always partially drawn over her face, are indelibly imprinted on its retina. There was something in that face which attracted my fancy. I know I must have inquired as regards its possessor, in my early years, for the outlines of her story seem almost a personal recollection. May it interest you, as it has me.

Backward I fling the curtain of time, which slowly, solemnly, unceasingly has dropped its folds around the actors of the event about to be narrated, shrouding within its unfolding embrace all of them. Fifty-eight years make wide ravages amongst the dwellers of earth. Death with a relentless sickle mercilessly cuts down his victims. The passing knell, muffled a shaft of marble, are the only tangible evidences of our having existed. He who serves well his day



and generation, haply has attained unto earth's highest good; to have served them ill, that man is cursed. The story opens with the account of a dire calamity, one of destruction engendered by that always to be dreaded foe, fire.

The Salem Gazette dated Oct. 17, 1836, contains the following paragraph: "On Monday morning a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. John Rea, Jr., in Topsfield, by which a tavern, large barn and store belonging to this gentleman were destroyed. We are informed by people who were on the spot that the fire originated in the barn, the contents of which, a large quantity of hay, grain, etc., two horses, several hogs, two chaises and two or three wagons, were destroyed. Considerable of the house furniture was consumed, also many other articles in the house, including a gold watch. Mr. Perley's store on the opposite side of the street was preserved with great difficulty. It is supposed that the fire was the work of an incendiary, as it was first discovered in a part of the barn not used as a tavern stable and into which no one had been known to carry a light. Mr. Rea was aroused at about one o'clock. The alarm reached Salem a little before 2. Two engines from Danvers and one from New Rowley (now Georgetown) were present. Loss, \$5,000. Insured, \$2,000."

The event of the fire was an exciting episode in the history of the village. Most of the inhabitants were in bed and asleep at the time it commenced. Mr. Chas. Gould had just retired to his home. He partially dressed, got on a horse and rode through the town giving the alarm. The tavern stood on the site of the store now occupied by Mr. C. I. Trowbridge, the store on the site of Mr. John Bailey's residence. There were no buildings on the same side of the street on the north from Wildes' corner but a blacksmith shop. South of the tavern was the new Samuel Gould house. Next to it stood the old S. Gould house, and from there none till the house of John G. Hood on the present corner of Main and Prospect streets. What to me seems remarkable is the fact that it is the only fire on the main street of the village

since it was first settled. May it be the last.

Of course the ever recurring question as regards the fire was: How was it set? Who did it? The property was insured for a large sum for those days, but there was a mortgage upon it, held by Hon. Asrael Huntington, which covered the full amount. Capt. Rea had recently failed in business, and the loss of his property by fire beggared him, so to speak. The topic was pretty generally canvassed by the townsfolk, as are local happenings at the present time. Many whispered suspicions which they dared not utter aloud. Mutterings of distrust against the Reas were heard on the horizon of public opinion, but none anticipated the terrific bolt nor its course in striking an unsuspecting, unprepared, unwarned victim.

A clipping from the Salem Gazette of Dec. 13, 1836, tells the story:—

#### CAPITAL CASE.

A magistrate's court was held last week at Topsfield before John W. Proctor, Esq. for the examination of Miss Elizabeth Porter Bradstreet, a maiden lady of a respectable family, on complaint made against her, charging her with the crime of arson, in setting fire to the dwelling-house and buildings of Capt. John Rea in Topsfield a few weeks since.

The Salem Gazette, dated Dec. 16, 1836, contains the following:—

By consent of the parties, and for reasons that were thought satisfactory, the time for the hearing in relation to the charge of setting fire to the buildings of Capt. John Rea in Topsfield on the 17th of the October last is postponed to Monday, Feb. 20, 1837.

Elizabeth Porter Bradstreet was house-keeper at the Rea tavern when it was burned, Capt. Rea its proprietor, being a widower. Before entering into the details of the trial, I wish to tell you of the ancestry and early life of the accused.

Her first ancestors in this country were Gov. Simon Bradstreet and his wife, Ann Dudley. John, their son, married Sarah Perkins. They had a son named Simon, who married Elizabeth







Capen, daughter of Parson Capen of this town. Their son John married Elizabeth Fiske and they had a son, Col. Dudley, who married Polly Porter, sister of my grand-mother Gould, daughter of Col. Joseph Porter of Danvers, a direct descendant of the John Porter who settled at Salem village, now Danvers, in 1634. To them was born on Jan 11, 1803, a daughter, Elizabeth Porter, the subject of this sketch. Thus she was of the sixth generation, in direct line of descent, from Gov. Simon Bradstreet and his wife, the "Lady Anne," the first poet of the new world. Elizabeth's mother died while she was very young, and being the eldest daughter, upon her shoulders devolved the task of keeping her father's house, looking after and supplying the wants of the younger children; because of this she had no chance to improve even the scanty school advantages of those early days. I have been told by one who heard her speak of her early life that she said "her father kept 20 cows which she helped to milk, took care of milk in the dairy, making butter and cheese." Her father kept large flocks of sheep, the wool of which she spun and helped weave into cloth for the clothing of the family. Flax was also raised on the farm. This she spun and wove into rifts of snowy linen. I recollect having heard an aunt of mine speak of the quantity of linen sheets which Elizabeth possessed, the work of her own hands in her younger years. For all these services rendered as her father's house-keeper she received the munificent sum of three shillings a week, \$26 a year.

Thus she grew up a steady, industrious woman, beloved by her family and respected by the townspeople. Her father in time took to himself a second wife, so that, her services not being required at home, she went away to work.

She was a member of the Congregational Church. At the time of her arrest, Rev. James McEwen, its pastor, rather than have her committed to jail during the time that must elapse before the hearing, gave his pledged word to the district attorney that he would guarantee

her appearance at the time designated.

The trial opened at the old hotel, on the turnpike, Monday, Feb. 20th, 1837, before magistrates Proctor and Mack. Hon. Leverett Saltonstall was counsel for the accused, of whom it was said: "there is one honest lawyer in Salem." Hon. Isahel Huntington, district attorney, was for the commonwealth, himself a Topsfield boy. He lived a long and honorable life and was one of the great lights of the Essex bar.

The Reas were the accusers of Miss Bradstreet, basing their accusation on a letter, purporting to have been written by the accused, Oct. 10, 1836, to Capt. Rea in which she threatened "to burn his property unless he discontinued his attentions to Ann Sawyer." This Miss Sawyer, whom Capt. Rea afterward married, lived with her brother, John, who was a blacksmith, living in the L of the Wilde's house, carrying on his trade in the shop on the opposite corner.

One evening while Capt. Rea was calling upon Miss Sawyer a stone was thrown through one of the windows. They charged Miss Bradstreet, at the trial, with the perpetration of the deed, but it was not proven. One item of evidence offered to support the contents of the letter was that Miss Bradstreet had told a woman friend of her intention to win Capt. Rea. At a house where she was calling one day, several of her acquaintances were congregated and in the course of the conversation they chaffed her about Rea and jokingly she made the above reply.

At the time of the fire, of course, she was aroused with the rest of the inmates. The barn burning first, there was time to collect most of her belongings and she hastily placed them in a trunk which was carried out of the house by Edward Hood, a resident of the town. At this time he was paying particular attention to Miss Bradstreet, and he testified at the trial that it was "impossible for her to have set the fire, for he was in her company from 8 o'clock p. m. until the hands of the clock were perpendicular."

As I before stated, the trial commenced at the hotel, but the space there became



too limited and the court removed to the Academy building. Of course the great piece of evidence against her was the letter. It proved to have been written by her, the conclusions would inevitably be damaging to her cause.

During the examination of witnesses, one of her brothers was asked if he had in his possession any letter written by his sister Elizabeth. He replied, "No! she did not know how to write a letter, therefore I have never received any. The only specimen of her handwriting extant at the time of the trial was a miss-spelled, badly written note to her step-mother. Comparing it with the letter received by Rea it was obvious that the handwriting was totally dissimilar. So that the letter charge fell through.

The time of the trial occupied 10 days; really over 11 days, but the court adjourned over one sitting to attend the funeral services of Dr. Nehemiah Cleveland. One reason for its great length was the large number of witnesses put on the stand to testify in behalf of the accused as to her character, standing, etc. Two persons only are living, now, of that number. The Reas left no stone unturned that might possibly bear on some circumstance that would tend to criminate her.

At length came the final day of the hearing, which it was decided should be held in the meeting house, March 3d. The sun rose clear, the day was warm and bright. The court opened promptly at 9 o'clock a. m. A few minutes before the time Mrs. McEwen came down the broad aisle of the meeting house, followed by the accused. After her came the high sheriff. The party seated themselves in the minister's pew, which was on the left side of the pulpit. The judges and counsel for both sides occupied the elder's seat, which was the height of two steps above the rest of the pews, and directly in front of the pulpit, extending the entire length of the pulpit's platform. After prayer by Rev. James McEwen the court opened. The house filled rapidly. Every inch of standing room was filled. The galleries were packed with a sympathizing, expectant throng. Hon. Leverett Saltonstall

opened his plea for the prisoner. He spoke of her former reputation, her integrity of character. He summed up her domestic and industrious qualities, scouted at her love for Rea as being the incentive of the crime, and the improbability of such a woman concocting so nefarious a scheme. He pointed out the discrepancies in the handwriting of the letter and of the note I have before spoken of. He thought it hard that Capt. Rea should tell the story of Miss Bradstreet's infatuation for himself and that she should remain silent. The ignominy of so doing was utterly indescribable. The argument was continued for nearly four hours. He finally commended her to the "mercy of the worldly judges, and that of Almighty God, who knoweth the innocence of the crime whereof she is accused." He took his seat amidst profound silence. After a conference among the judges, the court cried announced that the court would adjourn until 2 o'clock p. m. Many of the audience remained in the meeting house over the entire intermission in order to obtain good seats for the afternoon session. The prisoner repaired to the home of the McEwens, at which place she had been staying since the time of her arrest.

The court came in at precisely 2 p. m. If the house was crowded in the morning, it was densely packed now, the crowd surging back on to its entrance steps. Hon. Asahel Huntington, district attorney for the commonwealth, commenced his charge to the judges, as follows: "I have no desire other than to do my duty. My feelings towards the community are friendly. The examination took place in this town by my desire. I consented that this lady might remain with her friends. I might have had her placed in jail, as always is done in cases of this kind. I have had no connection with Rea since the time of his failure, till 1836. Do not lose a mill in consequence of the destruction of this property. I respect the feelings of this community toward the accused. It may all be a delusion, a mistake. It is the duty of the magistrates to carefully weigh all evidence presented. I don't believe an







examination of this kind ever consumed so much time since the foundation of the government. I have only done my duty if I show on the part of the government that there is good reason to suspect the prisoner of being guilty of the crime imputed to her. I believe that the community admits that the fire commenced by design; any individual in the neighborhood might have done it as well as the prisoner had they a motive. I know that people of this town will weigh the truth candidly."

So he goes on. Says very little with regard to the letter, but makes a strong point out of Miss Bradstreet's love for Rea and her avowed intention to win him; summing up the points of evidence against her which notoriously were all given by persons of the name of Rea, or their family connections, excepting Ann Sawyer. His speech occupied over two hours' time. I have been told by one who heard it that "It was considered a masterly affair," prejudicing many against him, they thinking that he need not have made so great an effort to convict one of his own townspeople. Doubtless this fact made him the more strenuous in the performance of his legal duty. It was not Ashael Huntington, the man and fellow citizen who spoke, but Ashael Huntington, the district attorney. The case was given to the magistrates at 5.40 o'clock. They entered into a conference as to its merits and demerits, while the crowd waited expectantly for their verdict. A large number of strangers, young men, some 25 in number, were scattered throughout the audience. People wondered who they might be. It grew dark and the room was lighted, but no one stirred to leave the house. All were anxious to hear their decision. Finally the clerk arose and stated that the decision would not be given out to the public till the next morning at 9 o'clock. It was a great disappointment to the waiting crowd, but they were obliged to submit. An arrangement was made whereby the result of the trial should be made known to the people at large. If the prisoner was convicted the church bell should be tolled, if acquitted it was to peal the

joyful tidings abroad. It was whispered about among the knowing ones, and the rumor had reached official ears, that those young strangers present were the ringleaders of a band which intended to make a forcible demonstration inside the meeting house after the delivery of the verdict. If favorable to Miss Bradstreet, one of joy, if against her, one of indignation. Some who knew of the weakness of the structure, asked the judges to withhold their decision on this account, fearing that some of its timbers might collapse under the great weight of the audience, and the extra strain of stamping and rapid moving about. It was an old building. Not long after it was removed, the present church building being dedicated in 1842.

The fateful morning came. One aged woman has told me "that in her home breakfast was ready at the usual hour, but no one could eat it. Her father walked the floor, while none of the family had any desire to engage in their usual occupations."

Crowds of people gathered on the common as the fateful hour drew nigh, waiting for the peal of the bell, discussing the pros and cons of the evidence of the trial and its probable outcome. A perceptible silence fell upon them as the time of waiting lessened into a minute's duration; when it lacked only a second, heart throbs were almost audible. "They rung the bell till they rocked the steeple." The rejoicing was universal. What must not its glad tidings have meant to the woman whose life had been in jeopardy these last ten days? We can imagine it like the awakening from a most horrible nightmare; as a delivery from an impending weight on its way to crush the very life from her soul and body.

Who set the fire is still a mystery. Who wrote the letter is another; doubtless they will always remain so.

In one of his sketches Hawthorne elaborates the idea that "It is not the deed alone that constitutes sin, but the thought as well." Someone in their thought deprived Elizabeth Porter Bradstreet of that gift bestowed upon her by the great Creator, life; hanged



her upon the gallows, condemned her to the most ignominious form of death bestowed upon criminals of the deepest dye. In God's sight they were "guilty

of murder in the first degree," with malice aforethought.

May He, in the wideness of His mercy, show pardon unto that guilty one.

## A Sketch of Dr. Nehemiah Cleaveland.

BY CHARLES J. PEABODY.

In trying to, collect material for this paper I have been impressed with the fact that, however deep may be the hold that a man gains on the men of his time, but few facts or traditions linger in the minds of a later generation. Hence much of value that I present may doubtless be well known, being obtained from books with which you are more familiar than myself.

The recalling, however, of the facts and incidents of such a life as that of Dr. Nehemiah Cleaveland must be of advantage, and will impress on us the great service that was done in former days by a man who was wise, strong and true.

Nehemiah Cleaveland was the youngest son of Rev. John Cleaveland of Ipswich, of whom it is said "he preached all the men of his Parish into the army of the Revolution and then went himself;" three of his sons were also in the army. Nehemiah at the age of 16 was an attendant on his father during the siege of Boston and afterward enlisted. He saw service at West Point and in New Jersey; he was also at Ticoudoroga. After he left the army he worked on his father's farm and manifested the patience, courage and endurance that afterward distinguished him in increasing its productiveness and repairing the neglect caused by the absence during the war of its owner and his sons. At the age of 21, being disappointed in earlier hopes of a college education, he entered on the study of medicine with his brother at Byfield and later with Dr. Manning of Ipswich.

He began his career as a physician in Topsfield in 1783, taking the practice of Dr. Dexter, who owned and occupied the

farm afterward owned by Dr. Treadwell and now held by the Essex Agricultural Society. An ancient record says that at the auction of Dr. Dexter's personal property his medical library was purchased entire by Dr. Cleaveland; said library consisting of two books.

Soon after settling in Topsfield his practice extended to the surrounding towns, and his reputation as a consulting physician was established among other doctors as well as the people. In practice he is described as cautious and careful. He never undertook difficult surgical operations, but had a keen insight, a good memory, with the kind heart that gained the respect and esteem of the families among whom he was known as an adviser and guide in many matters outside medical practice.

He was Justice of the Peace, and in that capacity exerted a wide influence to promote good feeling among the people. An old man who remembered Dr. Cleaveland, told me that two boys detected in petty thieving were brought before him for trial. The Dr., who was a man of great dignity of manner and never familiar and easy even with friends, talked to the boys in a solemn way of the wickedness of their conduct, and then saying, "I will read the law to you," took the old family Bible and read in an impressive manner the commandments and part of a chapter in Leviticus; then turning to the trembling boys he said, "I will let you go this time, but if you do anything wrong again, beware—" The boys thus warned, reformed and justified the Doctor's faith in the old law.

In 1811 he was chosen to the state







senate, and though defeated, the next year he was re-elected in 1815, retaining the position till 1819, when he refused to be longer a candidate. During his connection with the senate the historian tells us "His good judgment, sound sense and solid worth were neither unappreciated nor unacknowledged."

In 1814 he was made a Session Justice of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas. From 1820 to 1822 he was Associate Justice of the Court of Sessions for Essex County. In 1823 he was appointed Chief Justice. This station, the duties of which he discharged with ability and firmness, he retained till 1828, when he retired from all public business, and for 9 years lived quietly at home, dying Feb. 26, 1837. In 1828 he received from Harvard University the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Dr. Cleaveland was nursed in the Puritan strictness of earlier times. His character, early formed and invigorated under the pressure of hardship and stern necessity amid the thrilling scenes of the Revolution, exhibited in his maturer years the strength and firmness which might be expected from such training. There was no effeminacy about him. He regulated his life with the closest regard to principle. If his strictness sometimes bordered on severity, his severity was of the wholesome kind. With all this his natural sensibilities were quick and tender.

In public affairs and political questions he took from his first entry into public life a lively interest. Of his political opinions his futurity will never feel ashamed, for they can say they were those of Hamilton, Jay and Washington. As a physician he was much esteemed by persons who had opportunity to learn his worth. He made, indeed, no pretensions to extensive medical lore—he attempted no difficult surgical operations. But he had what all the schools of medicine of themselves cannot supply, an observing mind, a retentive memory, a good judgment and a high sense of responsibility. Nor did he, like too many country physicians, neglect the reading of medical books and journals. His practice was always prudent and cautious, qualities

which young and ardent physicians are not apt sufficiently to admire. He was punctual in attending calls, and kind and cheerful in the sick room. He possessed in a high degree the qualities which ensure to a physician the confidence and attachment of his patients. But the country doctor finds many opportunities and calls to do good, for which the faculty, as such, give no prescriptions. Happy he who has the power and disposition to meet such calls.

He was twice married, first to Lucy Manning of Ipswich. She died four years afterward, without children. His second wife was the daughter of Dr. Elisha Lord of Connecticut. A family of nine children grew up around them.

After his retirement from public life he was well and usefully employed for the good of the church and community. The greatest service he rendered this town was the founding of the Academy. He is remembered by a few of the older people in Topsfield as one of the only three persons in town who took a newspaper, which in the Doctor's case was lent about the neighborhood until it came to pieces.

A vote of the Topsfield church to the effect "that the pastor shall be authorized to associate Dr. Cleaveland with himself in the examination of persons for the admission to the church in such cases as he may be in doubt about himself," well expresses the confidence the good people of that day felt in him. There is a tradition that one Sunday a stranger occupied the pulpit by exchange with the pastor. As the congregation were coming out at the close of the service, a good woman was asked "How did you like the minister?" "I don't know yet," she said, "I must ask Dr. Cleaveland and then I will tell you what I think."

Another story going to show that when the Doctor had made up his mind to do a thing in a certain way, he was not easily turned from it, as follows: A small school was kept in a room of his house for the education of his daughters and a few other girls in the neighborhood. It was taught by a woman, and at the close of the term an examination was held, open to the public. The Doctor arranged



the furniture for the occasion and put the seats for his daughters in front of the rest, much to their annoyance. "O father," they said, "we do not want to sit there with nothing in front of us." "Go put your aprons on and have something in front of you, if you wish," was the reply.

Dr. Cleaveland trained his children to be very self-reliant. An illustration of this is as follows: Late one evening a stranger came to his house and asked to be carried to Ipswich. The Doctor was willing to do so, but instead of going himself he called his eight years old son, William, who had gone to bed, to get up and take the stranger to Ipswich. The little fellow did so, and arrived home after a long, lonely ride a little after midnight.

The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal of June 1839 says of Dr. Cleaveland, "During the fifty years of his practice in Topsfield, few days, probably, passed when his opinion or assistance was not sought in some matter aside from his profession. There are few occurrences or questions incident to common life in regard to which he had not formed an opinion or could not give judicious advice."

Indeed the mere fact that through so long a series of years, confidence continued undiminished, the oracle being consulted to the very last, proves that the responses had not been found unsafe or fallacious. The happy influence of so long a course of beneficent action are not to be estimated. How many quarrels have been arrested, how many lawsuits prevented, how much needless expense and trouble saved, in a thousand instances by the timely and unfeigned advice of a judicious and peace-making neighbor."

Dr. Cleaveland was president of the Eastern Stage company in 1796. He was chairman of the first meeting of the company. In 1806 he bought an interest in it.

The study of a life like that of Dr. Cleaveland brings to mind the question sometimes raised, "Were the prominent men of former days the superiors of all men today?" There is much to be said on each side of the argument.

It is at once evident that no man today

holds the relative position in Topsfield that Dr. Cleaveland filled. We are all aware that the minister in any parish is not now looked up to as was the case a hundred years ago. In town affairs a greater equality of influence prevails to-day than a generation since.

What, then, do these things prove? That there were giants in the earth in those days? Yea, verily. But has not the stature of the average man considerably increased mentally in two generations? Is there no significance in the fact that in Dr. Cleaveland's day only three papers were taken in Topsfield? And that his predecessor was able with only two books to solve all the intricate medical problems of his day? While with us every family has a treatise on medical practice, besides the abundant literature sown broadcast on matters of health and sanitary science by the prominent magazines and papers. Even the children in our common schools are instructed in physiology, while High school pupils are taught concerning germs, microbes and bacteria, to say nothing of the thousands of lives annually saved by Hood's Sarsaparilla, Green's Nervine and all the rest who uphold the health of the people at large. Even if it is true that in by far the larger number of cases they save life, as the small boy said a pin saved the life of a man, and when pressed for particulars, replied by his *not swallowing it*, yet as every one reads not only the local paper, but much on every subject of common interest, the effect must appear not only in greater general intelligence, but also in diminishing the distance between one man and another.

Many of us have noticed a single pine tree standing amid a growth of oak and maple. How it lifts itself above them! From what a distance it can be seen, sometimes a landmark for miles around. Yet, the height of the tree is relative only. Measure it, and in a forest of pines many will equal it. So is it with men. Were the great men of the past placed among us today, they would not be so prominent as in their own day. The average is rising in wisdom, in understanding, and let us hope in character also.







We can believe that the present time and not any past century is the Golden age. What, then, is the lesson which we shall learn from the life of him of whom I have spoken to you tonight? This: he was endeared to his neighbors by kindly service, and is held in lasting remembrance for his good deeds and peaceful influence.

For such efforts all time and all places afford abundant opportunity. Let us remember, when medical skill is forgotten and recollection of legislative service has passed away, personal character and pur-

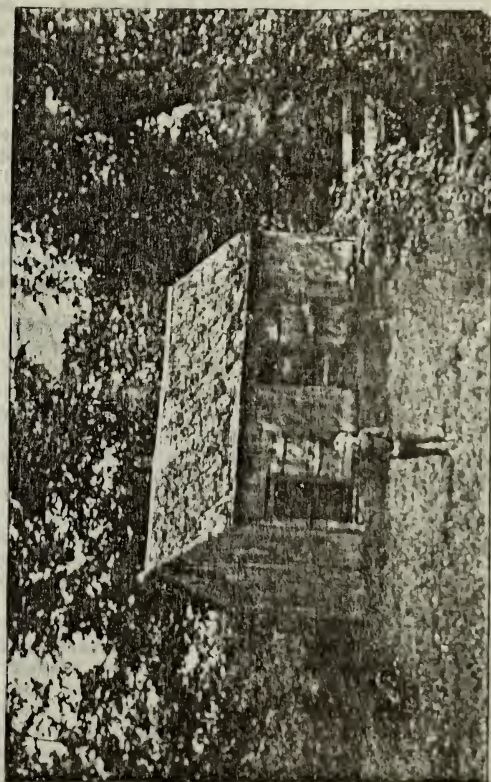
ity of life will remain. Hark! then, to this parting message—

“Thou must be true thyself,  
If thou the truth would teach;  
It needs the influence of heart,  
To give the lips full speech.  
Think truly, and thy thought  
Shall the world's famous feed;  
Speak truly, and each word of them,  
Shall be a fruitful seed;  
Live truly, and thy life shall be  
A great and noble creed.”



The first section of the report is a general statement of the  
 work done during the year. It is followed by a detailed account of the  
 various projects and experiments carried out. The report then  
 discusses the results of these experiments and compares them with  
 the results of previous work. Finally, the report concludes with a  
 summary of the work done and a statement of the conclusions reached.





FRANCIS PLUMB'S GRIST MILL.  
 Bessie B. Towne of the 8th generation in direct descent from Francis Plumb  
 is standing in the foreground.





## Francis Peabody's Grist Mill.

BY JOHN H. TOWNE.

In giving a history of the Peabody Mills of Topsfield, perhaps it would not be out of place at this time to give a short history of the man who conceived the idea of having them built.

By the records, Lieut. Francis Peabody was born in a small parish called St. Albans, Hertford County, England, in the year 1614. In 1635, at the early age of twenty-one years, having received a certificate of good character from the minister of his parish and been examined for emigration on April 6, 1635, he left his native country in the ship Planter, for the shores of New England.

After his arrival in this country it is thought by some that he lived a short time in what is now called the city of Lynn. In the following year 1636, by the records, he was living in Ipswich, in that part called Candlewood, where he continued to live until 1639. He then left Ipswich and moved to what is now Hampton, N. H., which he made his place of residence for eighteen years. During his stay there he was active and useful, serving the town for several years as one of its "Selected Men," so called.

He sold his house and land, situated near where the Baptist church now stands in Hampton, to Robert Drake of Exeter, for £76-13 S. and in 1657 he moved to Topsfield, Mass., where he also continued to make himself useful. Probably at that time he was the best experienced man in town affairs there was in the place, and the Topsfield commoners were not slow in finding it out. A few months after his arrival here he was chosen to serve both as Selectman and Town Clerk, which offices he held for a great many years, as our records show.

At a lawful town meeting of the town of Topsfield on the 4th of March, 1664, the town, by vote, gave "liberty to Lieut. Francis Peabody to set up a grist

mill and to flow so much of the town's common as is needful for a mill so long as the mill does stand and grind for the town."

Therefore having liberty from the town by vote of its inhabitants, the grist-mill was built by Lieut. Peabody the following year, according to a paper in my possession dated 1666, which says—

"Peabody's mill is a mill established by grant of ye Town in 1665, on a main from Pye Brook and Baker's Pond." In proof whereof we have from the town records—

"At a Lawfull Towne Meeting the 19th of March 1666—

Thomas perkins, Francis peabody and John Gould are Chosen to Vew and agree with Daniell Borman for a ble way between William Averlell house and the mill threw his ground as they shall see most Convenyaut. - - - Voted." Thus it is shown conclusively that the mill was in existence in March, 1666.

Who can estimate the joy of the inhabitants at that early period of having a grist mill to accommodate them in the grinding of their rye and corn! It marked a new era in the history of the Topsfield commoners.

The mill was built on what was then called Pye Brook, running from what is now Lowe's Pond in Boxford and also from Baker's, afterwards Pritchard's, but what is now called Hood's Pond in Topsfield. This was the main stream, there being a lateral branch about a half mile above the mill running to Howlett's brook in the north east part of the town and concerning which, later on, there was great contention.

At a lawful town meeting the 7th of March, 1671, it was voted—"That the town is willing that Lieut. Peabody shall set up a saw mill provided it does not do damage to any of the townsmen in their meadows." The saw mill was built in 1672.

So far as I am able to learn, every.



thing pertaining to these mills went along smoothly until the year 1691. At this date, the business increasing on account of the growth of the surrounding district, there was not sufficient head of water during a part of the year to run the mills, the fall of water being slight between the lateral branch and the mills.

When the mill pond was half full, the water would be pressed back and turned down the lateral branch, there being quite a fall that way. As there was no mill at this time on Howlett's Brook, Mr. Peabody was granted the privilege of building a dam across this branch a few rods below its parting from the main stream, providing he pay satisfactory damages to the adjoining owners by reason of his flowing their meadows.

The records speak of damages being received the following year by Thomas Dorman and sons, who had in 1690 erected a house within a few rods of the parting of this brook.

By the way, this house was occupied for several years during the latter part of the 18th century by Asahel Smith, and here was born on July 12, 1771 his son Joseph, who was the father of the celebrated Joseph Smith, the noted founder of Mormonism in this country. The house, 185 years old, was torn down by Frank C. Frame in 1875 and another built on the same spot.

The amount said Dorman was to receive for damages on account of the dam being built was left by agreement to referees to decide, as follows—

"We whose names are underneath on Being chosen By Mr Francis Peabody and Thomas Dorman senr and his sons Thomas Dorman Junr and Jesse Dorman to value what Damage the said Dorman shall Receive the Present years Beginning the 9th day of February 1692: and Ending the 9th of February 1700: By Reason of the said Mr Peabodys flowing the Water by a dam for his Corne mill.

We say that according to the Best of our judgments the said Dorman are Damified twenty shillins in their Grass and for stoping their out Lett to the Comon, and ten shillins for want of convenient watering of their Cattle, as Wittness our hands at Topsfield July

the 5th 1692.

Jonathan Putnam  
Joseph Byxba"

There was probably water power enough at the mills after the building of the dam as there are no papers showing the want of it for more than fifty years afterwards.

During the year 1698, after faithfully serving his day and generation, Lieut. Francis Peabody, the ancestor, passed away full of years and honors. By his will, dated Jan. 20, 1695, he gives his son, Isaac Peabody, the mills and mill-yard, the dwelling house by the mill and other property besides.

As Isaac Peabody owned the mills in Feb. 1700, when the old agreement made by Lieut. Peabody with Thomas Dorman on the flowage of land would expire, it became necessary for him to make further arrangements concerning it, which read as follows—

"This agreement made this 6th day of February 1700 Between Sargt Thomas Dorman on the one Part and Isaac Peabody on the other part witnesseth, that for future Love & Amity between them, the said Isaac Peabody shall pay or cause to be paid to the said Dorman thirty shillings a year in money ten years from the date hereof, provided he keeps his mill Dam up, which said thirty shillings is in full for all Damages said Dorman sustains by said Peabodys mill Dam, and further it is agreed upon that the said Peabody shall have free liberty to raise the water from the last of September to the first of April yearly as high as he needs for the use of the mill, which is to be done by a Sluise or Dam that now stands by the Bridge by said Dorman's New House which is on the brook that runs through said Dorman's meadow. And further it is agreed on that when Mr. Biker and said Dorman do send word to said Peabody together to lower the water for them that they may mow the meadow that is commonly flowed by the mill Dam the said Peabody is to lower the water such time as they may conveniently take off the Hay of said meadow. for the true performance of the above agreement we the aforesaid Sargt Dorman & Isaac Peabody do bind







ourselves our Heirs Executors Adm's and Assigns each to other fully and freely to fulfill the same as witness our hands & seals this 6th day of February 1700.

Thomas Dorman.  
Isaac Peabody."

In 1710, arrangements were again made between Thomas Dorman and Isaac Peabody by which said Peabody was to pay said Dorman twenty shillings a year for damages.

On the 27th of December, 1715, Capt. Thomas Baker applied to the courts at Salem to have damages allowed him by reason of having his meadows flooded on account of the dam, but it was not at that time allowed.

The mills were run with more or less success until 1726, when Mr. Isaac Peabody died. By his will, dated Oct. 1, 1726, he gave his son, Joseph Peabody, as follows—

"I give unto my son, Joseph Peabody, my Grist and Saw Mills with all iron's, wheels, stones, profits, privileges and appurtenances to said mills belonging, also the Dwelling House and barn standing near the Gristmill, the mill-yard, &c, &c."

The next year, 1727, Mr. Baker still demanding damages for injury done to his meadows, arrangements were made between him and Mr. Joseph Peabody by which he was to receive eighteen shillings a year. This sum was paid yearly to the Baker family for more than seventy years.

Up to 1736 the Peabody grist-mill was the only one in town, but during this year, Thomas Howlett built one in the north-eastern part of the town on Howlett's Brook, and three years after, in 1739 he also built a saw-mill.

Mr. Peabody continued to run his mill, paying damages to Mr. Dorman, and his successors in ownership, also to the Baker family yearly until his death, which occurred June 7, 1755. By his will, dated Nov. 12, 1753, he gave all his real estate to his only son, Jacob Peabody, with some conditions.

Jacob Peabody's ownership of the mills extended over a period of fifty-one years and it was during this time that there was so much litigation and trouble

between the owners of the Peabody and Howlett's, afterwards Hood's and then Hobb's mills.

In the summer of 1760, the old original grist-mill built by Lieut. Peabody was torn down and a new one built on the same spot, David Nelson being the builder. The millstones and some other things were put back into the new mill.

Mr. Nelson's bill reads as follows—

Topsfield, Dec. 20, 1760.

Received of Jacob Peabody ye sum of Fiftyfour Pounds Lawful money in full satisfaction for pulling down an old and building a new Grist-mill for said Peabody. Received, I say, by me, David Nelson.

In 1765 the old saw-mill was torn down and a new one built to take its place.

At this date, 1765, both of the mills being new, with plenty of water to run them, everything seemed in a flourishing condition, and so continued for several years. Then there began to be a lack of water power on account of the neglect to keep the dam across the lateral branch in good condition. In 1787, there was nothing left of the former dam but one stick of timber lying across the bed of said stream called a mud-sill.

In September of this year, supposing he had a right "In conformity with the grant of the town to Lieut. Peabody to build the dam," Jacob Peabody to some extent restored the dam. To this, Mr. Hobbs, the owner of the Howlett mill, made objection and proceeded to tear it down. The story is best told by the memorandum kept by Asa Smith, who was living for the second time in the old Dorman house, and which reads as follows—

"September the 24th 1787 mr Jacob peabody Stopt the water at the mud sill the first time—the 25th mr Benjn Hobbs cleared it as he told me—the 26th mr peabody Stopt it again as my two sons Saml & Asael told me—the 27th of said month mr hobbs come & took the stoppage out myself & two sons Jesse & Joseph Being present and he told us he would take out as fast as peabody put in—mr peabody jurn Came the same Day and Began to Stop it again and I went



Down and forbid him using any of my property to Stop said Brook or coming any more there with that Design—october the 12th mr Jacob peabody junr stopt the Brook again the same Day mr Benj hobbs cleared it—November the 3d mr peabody & son & mr Saml Brown come & filled up the mouth of Hobbsses Stream at the Crotch of said Brook with Large Stones on Each Side to the Wedth of 2 feet & 5 inches and Raised the Bottom of said Brook about 5 inches from its usual Debth with flat Stones—November 5th me-srs Abraham Benjn & David hobbs & mr John Perkins junr came with 5 yoke of oxen and a Dragg to clear out the Stones again—I forbid them coming on to my land—Benjn hobbs come to my house and Desired me to go with my two oldest sons with him and measure the Debth of water that Ran over the mud sill and Likewise the Debth of the Brook at the Crotch which I Did and we found the water that Ran over the mud sill 2½ Inches Deepe and at the Crotch of said Brook in hobbs Stream it was Eleven Inches Deepe and further saith not

A Short memorandum  
Asahel Smith"

Early in the year 1788, Jacob Peabody commenced an action of trespass against Abraham Hobbs for his digging out the brook and pulling down the dam, which was first erected in 1692 and most of the time maintained. "The suit was first brought before what was then called the 'Confession Act.' Mr. Hobbs appeared and disputed the demand."

Mr. Peabody had his case entered at the next court of Common Pleas for Essex County.

I have the depositions of ten aged persons who testified as to the condition of Pye Brook and its lateral branch at the parting thereof, and also to the fact of the existence of a dam across said branch as they remembered it fifty years before, or between the years 1720 and 1740. These depositions were signed and sworn to before Dr. Nehemiah Cleaveland, Justice of the Peace.

The names of these persons are as follows: Caleb Foster and Mrs. Mary

Potter of Ipswich; John Smith of Boxford, who lived with Jesse Dorman, son of Thomas, in 1723, when 16 years of age; Mrs. Hannah Chaplain of Rowley, who lived with William Rogers in 1734 in said Dorman house; John Perkins of Topsfield, who lived with said Rogers in 1736; John Averill of Westminster, Vt., who lived with Mr. Rogers in 1738; Nathaniel Hood of Topsfield, probable owner of the Howlett Mills from 1746 to 1748; also John Bradstreet, Simon Gould and Thomas Baker, all of Topsfield.

According to the testimony of these witnesses, the dam was built between two small hills about two rods above a bridge over the brook in the following manner.

"A stick of timber was laid across the bottom of the brook and two studs set up, one on each end, and tenanted into this stick of timber or mud-sill, so acled, and a cap-piece mortised on the top of these studs."

The case was tried in two courts and exceptions filed thereon. Mr. Peabody then decided to carry it to the Supreme court. Before the sitting of this court, however, the owners of these two mills, probably finding that the lawyers were getting more out of it than they were from their mills, consulted together and decided to submit the case to the determination of referees. These referees, Nathaniel Lovejoy Esq., Mr. Moody Bridges and Captain Peter Osgood, viewed the premises and decided as follows:—

"At the beginning of that branch of said Pye Brook which runs to said Peabody's mill, at the parting of said brook, suitable stones shall be laid in lime mortar in such a manner as to confine the channel of said branch within the compass of five feet, and this shall be done by the said Peabody, his heirs and assigns, at his and their expense within one year from the date of this report.

And at the beginning of the other branch of said brook which flows from Pye Brook through Howlett's Brook so called, being a branch of said Pye Brook to the said Hobb's grist-mill,







suitable stones shall in like manner be laid in lime mortar so as to confine the channel of said branch within the compass of three feet, and this shall be done by the said Hobbs, his heirs and assigns, at his and their expense within one year from the date of this report.

And we do further report that each and both of the said parties, their respective heirs and assigns, may at any time hereafter remove any obstructions that may be in their respective branches of said brook at any place therein, saving, that the said Hobbs, his heirs and assigns, may not at any time remove or cause to be removed a certain mud-sill, lying in and across the branch of said brook running to the said Hobb's grist-mill, about two rods above a bridge over the brook on the road facing by Asabel Smith's dwelling house and where a dam was formerly made, and that he, his heirs and assigns, shall forever keep and maintain a sill or bar in that place in the same situation it now is, never to be sunk lower, nor shall he or they make any alteration in the bed or bottom of said brook by digging or lowering it from its present state from the parting of said brook to the aforesaid mud-sill.

Neither shall the said Peabody, nor his heirs and assigns, make any alteration in the bed or bottom of that branch of said brook, running to his said mill, within five rods of the said parting of said brook. Given under our hands this thirtieth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred eighty eight.

Nathaniel Lovejoy }  
Moody Bridges } Referees.  
Peter Osgood }

Accepted by the Court Apr. 1789.

Although more than a century has passed since this occurred yet it remains the same today.

It is a somewhat singular fact that after all the contention and strife between the owners of these mills, the proprietor of the Hobb's mill today, Mr. Wellington Donaldson, is a lineal descendant of Francis Peabody, the ancestor.

In 1801, Joseph and John Batchelder,

owners of the Captain Thomas Baker farm at this date, brought suit against Jacob Peabody for the flowing of their meadows. The case was tried on the second Tuesday of November, 1801, at the Supreme Judicial court holden at Salem and they were awarded \$10.00 by the court for past damages, also said Peabody and his successors in ownership of the mills were to pay three dollars per year for damages in the future. This amount was paid every year until 1870, when it was stopped.

Jacob Peabody died Nov. 25, 1806 and by his will dated Feb. 16, 1804, he gave the mills with other property to his two sons, Jacob and John P. Peabody, in equal shares. These two brothers continued to run the mills up to the summer of 1824.

The grist mill at this time being very much out of repair, needing a new water-wheel, a set of mill stones, a new flume and several other things, it was thought best to tear it down and build anew. This was done in August and the new one, built on the same spot, was raised on Sept. 25, 1824. The work was done by Ezra Dodge and others from Beverly.

John P. Peabody took one half of the old original mill-stone for a door step, in which capacity it has served to the present day. The new mill-stones, weighing over three tons, were brought from Lynn, as the following bill will testify:—

Topsfield, Oct. 9, 1824.

John P. Peabody to Nehemiah Perkins Dr.  
To myself and two yoke of oxen to  
Lynn to draw the millstones for the new  
mill. \$1.17

Rec'd Payment,  
Nehemiah Perkins.

The cost of the new mill was \$452.06. The mills were run by the said brothers until Feb. 14, 1829, up to which date they had been in the Peabody name for 164 years.

Now there happened an unusual occurrence, as the first change was made in the name of the owners. Jacob Peabody sold his farm and undivided half of the mills to Hon. Nathan Dane of Beverly, the deed being dated Feb. 14, 1829. Mr. Dane transferred the same to



Samuel Bradstreet and Samuel Gould in common, June 16, 1831.

April 12, 1838, Samuel Bradstreet sold out his one fourth interest to Samuel Gould, who in turn sold out his one half interest of the mills to Jacob Towne, Sept. 14, 1841.

Widow Sophia Towne, as administratrix of the estate of Jacob Towne, conveyed to their son, J. Waldo Towne, this one half interest of the mills, April 2, 1845.

During all these years since Jacob Peabody in Feb. 14, 1829 had sold out half of the mills, John P. Peabody had continued running them, paying rent to the different owners of the undivided half sold by his brother Jacob.

In 1842, the old saw mill was taken down by Alfred P. Towne and used for firewood.

Considerable business must have been done at this mill as shown by the "Book of Accounts" which, over a century old, I still have in my possession. I also have an old saw taken from the mill in 1792.

On Nov. 1, 1843 John P. Peabody sold his farm and his one half of the mill to his son-in-law, Benjamin B. Towne. At this date, one half of the mill had been in the Peabody name 178 years.

In 1846, the old Peabody House by the mill was torn down by A. Porter Kneeland and others. I was present on that occasion with many of the neighbors.

Some of the boards and timbers taken from this old house were used in the construction of the house erected near this spot by J. Waldo Towne in 1847. The house is now owned by George F. Pevear.

The mill was run by Benjamin B. and J. Waldo Towne until April 10, 1848, when they sold out to John McKenzie.

During his ownership, being a wheelwright, he made extensive repairs. The old reversible water-wheel, 16 feet in diameter, was taken out in 1850 and a new circular tub-wheel put in.

When putting in a foundation for this new wheel, Mr. McKenzie found an old Pine-tree shilling. This ancient coin was afterwards purchased by Dea. Joel R. Peabody and with some appropriate

verses on the same written by Mrs. Peabody, his wife, was sent as a present to George Peabody, the eminent banker of London, England. Mrs. Peabody received in return a present of a silver pitcher lined with gold.

In 1851, after making many repairs, Mr. McKenzie put in a corn cracker, for up to this time only clear grain had been ground. The putting in of this cracker marked a new epoch in the history of the mill. Not much corn was shelled after this as the great call seemed to be for corn-and cob meal.

Mr. McKenzie's health beginning to fail, he was assisted in his work by his son-in-law, John Boardman, Junior. The mill was run with good success until Aug. 1, 1854, when being still in poor health, Mr. McKenzie sold out to his son, Alfred McKenzie. As he was living in Danvers at the time he let out the mill on shares to Benjamin B. Towne, who ran it continuously with the assistance of George W. Brown, until April 1, 1870.

During this time the principal repairs were made in 1857, when a new flume and bridge were put in at the cost of \$117.00.

The passing of the mill property from the McKenzies into other hands was probably hastened by the following incident.

Mr. William Locke owned the property adjoining the mill lot and desiring to make some improvements in front of his house and near the brook, he commenced to build a wall around a spring which was by the side of the brook.

While working on the same one pleasant afternoon in October, 1869, one of the McKenzie heirs happened to come along and asked the question, "On whose land are you building your wall, Mr. Locke?" He replied in an indifferent manner as if he did not care, but it seems he afterwards looked at the deed of his place and found he was trespassing upon mill property.

Desiring to go on with his improvements, he began at once to negotiate for the purchase of the mill property, which was finally consummated March 19, 1870. Mr. Locke made some repairs







to the mill, putting on a new rim to the water wheel and also substituting iron floats to the wheel in place of wooden ones.

During the first part of Mr. Locke's ownership, it was run by David Smith and B. Austin Perkins, and then by Mr. Locke himself until July 17, 1873, when he sold his place with mill property to John B. Perry of Somerville.

Mr. Perry ran the mill with some success until he sold it to Mrs. Licenetta Ham of Wakefield, Aug. 19, 1875. During her ownership it was run by John B. Perry, Jr.

Mrs. Ham sold out to Mrs. Catharine Hanford of Lexington, Jan. 4, 1876. It was run during her ownership by her son, Clarence C. Hanford, who made some repairs on the same.

On the 27th of June, 1883, Mrs. Hanford's interest in the mill property was sold to Leon F. Chamecin of Boston, and on the second day of October, the same year, 1883, he sold out to Mrs. Teresa C. Carr, the present owner. The mill has not been run since 1892.

The most successful period of the mill's history was probably from 1851, the time of putting in the corn-cracker, to 1875, for during the civil war and for some years afterwards, grain was very high, often bringing two dollars per bushel.

Many amusing incidents could be related in connection with this mill. Some people would come to the house and, say in rather pleading tones, "I want to go to mill." Others would say, "I have come to get some meal ground." My parents have often spoken of a gentleman who occasionally came to mill from the Linebrook Parish. He generally drove in a two-wheel shay and when coming down the turnpike hill by our grove he would begin to cry out in attention tones, "Where is the miller?" "Where is the miller?" and he would keep it up more or less until he had

arrived opposite the miller's house. If the miller was within an eighth of a mile of the scene of action he would be almost sure to hear the cry. Evidently the gentleman disliked to get out of his shay to call at the house for the miller.

The old mill stands today in quiet repose. No busy sound is heard save that of the ceaseless flow of the running brook, bringing to mind the truthful words of Tennyson:—

"For men may come and men may go,  
But I go on forever."

Let us contemplate the scene and ask the question, "Where in this town is there another landmark around which cluster so many memories of the past, and where another spot on which a building has stood every year since 1665, or within forty-five years of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers?" And a few rods from this mill is the old historic spot where, in 1660, dwelt the only family in America by the name of Peabody, whose descendants today are numbered by the thousands.

Now, in conclusion, I will say that notwithstanding I have over seventy papers referring to these mills, some of which are more than two centuries old, handed down to me through six generations, or from Lieut. Francis Peabody, the ancestor, I have been very careful to give the subject due consideration in regard to facts and dates, thinking that this will probably be the only history that will ever be written of the old Peabody mills. One of them has been gone for more than half a century, and the other, unless repaired, will soon be a thing of the past, and these ancient landmarks will be obliterated forever, for it is not probable that the grist-mill will ever be rebuilt again, although the water power may be utilized for some other purposes in the long distant future.



# BAPTISMAL RECORDS

OF THE

## CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD

COMMUNICATED BY

GEO. FRS. DOW.

SALEM, MASS.

AYLWARD & HUNTRESS, PRINTERS.

The Salem Press.

1895.





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD, 1727-1779.

COMMUNICATED BY GEO. FRIS. DOW.

A List of most of y<sup>e</sup> children y<sup>t</sup> were baptized by several ministers of y<sup>e</sup> Gospell during y<sup>e</sup> vacancy in y<sup>e</sup> church of Topsfield, y<sup>t</sup> is after the Death of y<sup>e</sup> Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Capen, untill y<sup>e</sup> ordination of M<sup>r</sup> John Emerson his successor.

The Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Putnam, Pastor of a church in Reading, baptized

Joseph Towne	his	Sarah	Feb'y 26, 1726-7.
Samuell Smith	"	Susanna	" "
Samuell Howlet	"	William	" "
David Redington	"	Sarah	" "
Robert Perkins	"	Rebeckah	" "
Samuell Bradstreet	"	Sarah	" "
Samuell Curtice	"	Mary	" "
Jacob Reddington	"	Daniel	" "
Gideon Towne	"	Hannah	" "



## 2 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

### The Rev. Mr. Prescott, of Salem, baptized

Samuell Towne	his Samuell	Aug. 27, 1727.
Francis Peabody	" Isaac	" "
Joseph Commins	" Moses	" "
Nathan Towne	" Amee	" "

### y<sup>e</sup> Rev. Mr. Wigglesworth, of Ipswich Hamlet, baptized

Mark How	his Luce	Feb'y 25, 1727-8.
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### y<sup>e</sup> Rev. Mr. Clark, of Salem village

Timothy Perkins	his Rebeckah	March 10, 1727-8.
John Wilds	" Amos	" "
Jonathan Perkins	" Hannah	" "
Richard Towne	" Thomas	" "

### The Rev. Mr. Rogers, of Boxford

Jacob Perkins	his Abigail	March 31, 1728.
Aaron Estey	" Hannah	" "

### The Rev. Mr. Prescott, of Salem

Daniel Towne	his Dorothy	Aprill 14, 1728.
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### The Rev. Mr. Emerson, of Malden baptized

Benjamin Towne	his Jacob	} twins	June 9, 1728.
" "	" Joseph		
Samuell Curtice	" Samuell	" "	" "
Samuell Perkins	" Margaret	" "	" "

### The Rev. Mr. Rogers, of Boxford, baptized

Daniel Redington	his Sarah	June 23, 1728.
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### The Rev. Mr. Wigglesworth, of Ipswich Hamlett

Samuell Robinson	his Hannah	August 18, 1728.
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### The Rev. Mr. Rogers, of Boxford, baptized

Tobijah Perkins	his Annah	November 10, 1728.
John Abbot	" Elizabeth	" "

### The Rev. Mr. Robert Ward, of Wenham, baptized

Matthew Peabody	his Ebenezer	October 1, 1727.
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Joseph y<sup>e</sup> son of Simon and Elizabeth Bradstreet was baptized June 25, 172[7] by y<sup>e</sup> Rev. Mr. Robert Ward of Wenham.

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The Church of CHRIST in Topsfield having made choice of Mr. John Emerson to be their Pastor sent Letters to Eight Churches to come and afford their assistance by y<sup>r</sup> Elders & messengers in ordaining of him to y<sup>e</sup> office of a Pastor over y<sup>m</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> Lord. accordingly on y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Day of Nov<sup>br</sup> 1728 came y<sup>e</sup> Rev: Mr. John & Nathan<sup>l</sup> Rogers Pastors of y<sup>e</sup> first church of CHRIST in Ipswich with their Delegates. The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. John Rogers of Boxford. The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Joseph Emerson of Malden. The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Sam<sup>l</sup> Wigglesworth of Ipswich Hamlett. The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Peter Clark of Salem village and The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Robert Ward of Wenham w<sup>th</sup> their Delegates.

The solemnity began w<sup>th</sup> Prayer, Mr. Wigglesworth was y<sup>e</sup> mouth of y<sup>e</sup> Congregation.

Mr. Emerson of Malden preached from Mat. 4: 21-22. *And going on from thence He saw other two Brethren, James y<sup>e</sup> son of Zebedee & John his Brother, and He called y<sup>m</sup>, and they immediately left y<sup>e</sup> ship & y<sup>r</sup> Father and followed Him.*

Mr. John Rogers Sen<sup>r</sup>. Pastor of y<sup>e</sup> first chh: of Ipswich gave y<sup>e</sup> Charge.

Mr. John Rogers of Boxford gave y<sup>e</sup> right Hand of Fellowship.

Mr. Ward of Wenham prayed afterwards, a suitable psalm was y<sup>n</sup> sung, y<sup>e</sup> Blessing given and y<sup>e</sup> solemnity Concluded.

---

Simon Bradstreet  
William Kittery  
Abraham Foster  
Luke Avery

his Mercy  
" William  
" Amos  
" Ruth

Decem<sup>br</sup> 8, 1728.  
" 22,  
" "  
" "



#### 4 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Jacob Peabody	his Elizabeth	Decem <sup>br</sup>	29, 1728.
Abraham How	" Elizabeth	"	"
Matthew Peabody	" Mehetabell	"	"
Joseph Perkins	" Dorkas	January	5, 1729.
Simon Bradstreet		February	23,
Zacheus Perkins and		"	"
William Perkins, these upon their own account			
being of adult Age,		"	"
also y <sup>e</sup> children of			
Thomas & Mary Demey their Mary		"	"
" " "	" Thomas	"	"
" " "	" Miriam	"	"
" " "	" Charles	"	"
Richard Town	his Mary	March	2,
Timothy Perkins	" Timothy	"	16,
Joseph Robinson	" Joseph	"	"
Robert Perkins	" Robert	"	"
Samuell Howlet	" Dan	"	"
Joseph Gould	" Daniel	"	30,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Bradstreet	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	"
Jacob Averell	" Jacob	"	"
Joseph Towne	" Jonathan	April	20,
Joseph Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Jemima	"	"
David Cummins	" David	"	"
Mark Howe	" Mary	May	4,
John Gould	" Jacob	"	11,
Jacob Reddington	" Jacob	"	25,
John Prichard	" Paul	June	8,
Francis Peabody	" Daniel	"	"
Ephraim Smith	" Mary	"	"
John Cummings	" Sarah	"	"
Eliezer Lake	" Daniel	July	6,
John Wilds	" Mary	"	27,
Jonathan Wilds	" Nathanael	"	"
John Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Stephen	"	"
Daniel Towne	" Thomas	August	24,
Micall Dwinell	" Thomas	September	7,
Nathan Towne	" Esau	"	28,
Michall Coffeen	" John	November	23,
" "	" Michall	"	"
Phillip Towne	" Enos	December	7,
Josiah Kenney	" Mary	February	1, 1730.
John Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Icabod	"	15,
Miall Coffee	" Robert	"	"





BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 5

Daniel Reddington	his Dorcas	March	15, 1730
Jonathan Perkins	" Jonathan	"	"
The widow Ann Averell		"	22,
Jacob Perkins	" Prudence	April	19,
John Bradstreet	" Sarah	May	17,
Timothy Perkins	" Nathan	June	7,
Joseph Towne Junr	" Archelaus	"	"
Joseph Dwinell	" George	"	28,
" "	" Joseph	"	"
" "	" Martha	"	"
" "	" Mary	"	"
" "	" Zechariah	"	"
" "	" James	"	"
John Towne	" John	July	5,
George Cowan	" Elizabeth	"	"
Margaret Perkins	her Jemima	"	"
John Prichard	his Sarah	"	19,
Luke Averell	" Mary	August	9,
Nathan Bixby	" Nathan	"	23,
Aaron Estey	" Mary	"	"
Israel Towne	" Elizabeth	"	"
Matthew Peabody	" John	September	13,
Elizabeth, y <sup>e</sup> daughter of John and Elizabeth Emerson		"	20,
Thomas Potter	his Sarah	"	"
Joseph Peabody	" Joseph	October	4,
Gideon Towne	" Phcebe	"	"
Thomas Baker	" Thomas	"	25,
John Johnston	" Mary	"	"
Jacob Averell	" Daniel	December	6,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Porter Junr	" Daniel	January	24, 1731.
Joseph Perkins	" Mercy	"	31,
John Abbot	" Martha	February	14,
William Reddington	" Jonathan	"	"
David Commings	" Jonathan	March	21,
Israel Clark,	" Elijah	"	28,
Tobijah Perkins	" Daniel &	} twins April	18,
" "	" Edmund		
Benjamin Towne	" Eli	"	"
Robert Perkins	" Amos	"	"
Samuel Perkins	" Samuel	"	"
Mark How	" Aaron	May	16,
Simon Braudstreet	" Mary	"	23,
William Meclure	" James	June	18,



# 6 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Sam <sup>l</sup> Curtice	his Noah	June	27, 1731.
Andrew Delrymple	" Mary	"	"
Micall Dwinell	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	July	18,
Jacob Clark	" Bathsheba	"	"
Joseph Robinson	" Joseph	August	1,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Brandstreet	" Elijah	"	29,
John Prichard	" David	"	"
Jabez Towne	" Jabez	"	"
Hannah Bowery	her Hannah	September	5,
Stephen Johnson	his Ruth	"	12,
John Peabody	" Jacob	December	19,
John, y <sup>e</sup> son of John & Elizabeth Emerson		"	26,
Joseph Gould	his Elizabeth	"	"
Thomas Perkins	" Enoch	"	"
Nathan Whood	" William	January	29, 1732.
Jacob Dorman	" Jacob	February	6,
Jacob Perkins	" Jacob	"	13,
Richard Towne	" Elizabeth	"	"
Joseph Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Jemima	"	"
Jacob Averell	" Dorothy	"	27,
Israel Towne	" Thomas	"	"
David Comings	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	March	5,
Timothy Perkins	" Elizabeth	April	23,
Israel Clark	" Israel	"	"
Ephraim Wildes	" Thomas	June	4,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Howlett	" John	"	11,
Jacob Reddington	" Dorcas	"	"
Aaron Estey	" Isaac	"	23,
Jonathan Perkins	" Juda	July	2,
Thomas Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Thomas	"	23,
Gideon Towne	" Abisha	August	13,
Daniel Gould	" Ruth	"	"
Mehetabel Dodge	her Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	20,
Will <sup>m</sup> Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Will <sup>m</sup>	September	24,
Dan Clark	" Mary	October	8,
Josiah Kenney	" Asa	"	"
John Gould	" Esther	"	15,
Nathan Bixby	" Solomon	"	29,
Joseph Perkins	" Icabod	December	10,
John Perkins	" Moses	January	7, 1733.
Thomas Howlet	" Alice	"	"
John Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" William	"	21,
Luke Averell	" Moses	February	4,
Robert Perkins	" Phebe	"	"





BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 7

Rebeckah, y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of John and Elizabeth

Emerson		February 25, 1733.
Matthew Peabody	his Sarah	April 1,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Bradstreet	" Eunice	" 29,
John Prichard	" Martha	" "
Sam <sup>l</sup> Curtice	" Rachel	May 6,
Nathanael Curtice	" Priscilla	June 3,
Thomas Perkins	" Susannah	August 5,
Joseph Towne	" Eunice	" 26,
Stephen Johnson	" Rebeckah	September 23,
Benjamin Towne	" Susannah	October 7,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Perkins	" Mary	" "
Sam <sup>l</sup> Towne	" Hannah	" 14,
Micall Dwinell	" Elisabeth	November 4,
Ephraim Wildes	" Jacob	" 11,
Ebenezer Curtice	" Abner	" "
Thomas Baker	" John	" 25,
Jacob Robinson	" Jacob	December 2,
Edmund Towne	" Edmund	" 9,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Boyd	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	" 16,
" "	" Ann	" "
" "	" John	" "
Nathan Porter Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	" 23,
Jabez Towne	" Mary	" 30,
Daniel Gloyd, of adult age		February 3, 1734.
Dan Clark	his Daniel	" 10,
John Lampson Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Ruth	" "
Philip Towne	" Dinah	" 24,
Jacob Dorman	" David	March 3,
Mark How	" Mark	" 10,
Abraham Foster Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Ruth	" 17,
Jacob Perkins	" Luce	April 14,
Aaron Estey	" Abigail	May 5,
Israel Towne	" Archelaus	" 19,
William Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Elizabeth	" "
Phineas Reddington	" Dorothy	June 2,
" "	" Ann	" "
" "	" Phineas	" "
John Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Elijah	" "
Thomas Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Abner	" 9,
Nathan Towne	" Aaron	September 1,
Daniel Reddington	" Margaret	" 29,
David Cummings	" Anna	October 20,
Richard Towne	" Sarah	December 1,



# 8 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Jonathan Foster	his Affia	December 8, 1734.
Nathan <sup>ll</sup> Curtice	" Nathan <sup>ll</sup>	" 15,
Jonathan Perkins	" Abigail	" 22,
Israel Clark	" Mercy	January 5, 1735.
Thomas, y <sup>e</sup> son of John and Elizabeth Emer- son		" 12,
Robert Perkins	his Martha	" "
Thomas Howlett	" Lydia	February 23,
Daniel Gould	" Daniel	April 6,
David Gould	" Edmund	" 20,
John Prichard	" Hannah	May 18,
Joseph Perkins	" Mary	" "
Joseph Peabody	" Dudley	June 29,
Abraham Reddington	" Abraham	" "
Jacob Averell	" Lydia	July 6,
Tobijah Perkins	" Jonathan	" 27,
Samuell Boyd	" Mary	" "
Jacob Robinson	" John	" "
Joseph Kneeland	" Edward	August 10,
Ruth Clough, of adult age, y <sup>e</sup> wife of Daniel Clough, and their child Elisabeth		" 17,
John Gould	his Amos	" 24,
Jacob Dorman	" Mercy	" 31,
Nathan <sup>ll</sup> Wood	" Luce	September 7,
" "	" Obadiah	" "
Sam <sup>ll</sup> Howlett	" Mary	" 14,
Joseph Hovey	" Joseph	October 12,
Amos Dorman	" Dudley	" "
Philip Kneeland Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Moses	" 26,
Jacob Reddington	" Pheebe	December 28,
John Town Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Deborah	" "
Nathan Hood	" Mary	January 11, 1736.
Ebenezer Curtice	" Elizabeth	" "
Thomas Baker	" Symonds	" 18,
Mark How	" Abijah	February 1,
Luke Averell	" Ebenezer	" "
Solomon Gould	" Elisabeth	" "
Amos Dorman	" Amos	" 22,
John Averell	" Mary	March 14,
Thomas Dorman	" Judith	" "
Daniel Gloyd	" Daniel	" 21,
Nathanael Hood, of adult age		April 18,
Sam <sup>ll</sup> Bradstreet	his Asa	" 25,
Ephraim Wildes	" Dorothy	May 2,





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD 9

Phineas Reddington	his Sarah	May	2, 1736.
Benjamin Towne	" Edmund	"	9,
" "	" Ezra	"	"
" "	" Elijah	"	"
all which were born at one birth			
Jacob Perkins	his Lydia	"	"
Mary Dwinell, y <sup>e</sup> wife of John Dwinell		"	16,
Dan Clark	his Elijah	June	27,
Aaron Estey	" Esther	July	4,
Thomas Potter	" Thomas	"	11,
Will <sup>m</sup> Perkins	" Affia	"	18,
Thomas Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Asa	"	25,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Perkins	" Archelaus	August	8,
W <sup>m</sup> . Rogers	" Elizabeth	"	15,
Aaron Hubbard	" Mary	"	"
Philip Towne	" Daniel	"	29,
David Gould	" Sarah	September	5,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Curtice	" Eunice	"	12,
Micall Dwinell Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Bartholomew	October	24,
" "	" Luce	"	"
" "	" Hannah	"	"
" "	" Micall	"	"
Mary, y <sup>e</sup> Daughter of John and Elizabeth Em-			
erson		"	31,
W <sup>m</sup> Perkins	his Eunice	"	"
Jacob Peabody Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Jacob	November	7,
Israel Clarke	" Sarah	"	21,
Israel Towne	" Israel	December	19,
Philip Kneland Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Elizabeth	"	"
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Porter, Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mary	"	26,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Smith Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Priscilla	January	2, 1737.
Joseph Kneland	" Timothy	February	27,
Thomas Howlett	" John	"	"
Robert Perkins	" Mehitabel	March	13,
Abraham Foster Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Abigail	April	3,
Joseph Herrick Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Nehemiah	May	1,
David Cummings	" Susannah	"	15,
Daniel Gould	" Lydia	June	5,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Hood	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	12,
Jacob Robinson	" Mary	July	10,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Curtice	" Elijah	August	14,
Jacob Dorman	" Sarah	September	4,
Jonathan Perkins	" Dudley	"	11,
Jabez Towne	" Rebeckah	"	"



# 10 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Baptized Sarah Gallop a child upon y<sup>e</sup> account  
of Daniel Reddington who took her to bring  
up.

Joseph Peabody	his Elisabeth	September 18, 1737.
Y <sup>e</sup> widow Mary Kenney	her Josiah	" 25,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Howlett	his Davis	October 2,
Daniel Reddington	" Anna	" 16,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Smith Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	" 23,
Nathan Hood	" Joanna	" 30,
John Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Asa	November 20,
Aaron Estey	" William	December 4,
Tobijah Perkins	" Mary	" 11,
Joshua Conant	" Jehodin	" 25,
Mark How	" Mark	" "
Richerd Towne	" Richerd	January 1, 1738.
Thomas Cummings	" Asa	" "
Jacob Peabody Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sarah	" "
Jonathan Foster	" Philemon	February 12,
Thomas Baker	" William	" 19,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Moulton	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	" 26,
Ephraim Wildes	" Thomas	" "
Jacob Perkins	" Joseph	March 12,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Perkins	" Sarah	" 19,
Jonathan Standley	" Abigail	" 26,
John Prichett	" Patience	April 2,
Amos Dorman	" Thomas	" 30,
Aaron Hubbard	" Lydia	" "
Jacob Reddington	" Eliphalet	May 14,
Edward, y <sup>e</sup> son of John & Elisabeth Emerson	his Solomon	June 11,
Luke Averell	" Moses	July 16,
Rebeckah Smith	her John	" 30,
Thomas Dorman	his Thomas	" "
Sam <sup>l</sup> Putnam	" Elizabeth	" 20,
Jacob Dorman	" Damaras	September 10,
John Dwinell Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Ruth	October 8,
Thomas Edwards	" Rice	" 15,
Jabez Town	" Jacob	" 20,
Phineas Reddington	" Phineas	November 12,
John Averell	" Abiel	" 19,
Jacob Robinson	" Elizabeth	" 26,
Thomas Cummings	" Lydia	January 7, 1739.
Ebenezer Curtis	" Hannah	February 4,
Israel Clark	" Sarah	" "
		11,





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 11

Thomas Howlett	his Thomas	March	4, 1739.
Joseph Perkins	" Eunice	"	13,
Joseph Kneland	" Miriam	"	"
Daniel Reddington	" Daniel	"	25,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Porter Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mary	"	"
Joseph Peabody	" Jacob	April	8,
Isaac Town	" Lydia	"	22,
Elisha Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Joseph	"	"
Israel Towne	" Moses	May	6,
W <sup>m</sup> . Perkins	" Elisabeth	"	19,

which was baptized at his own House, y<sup>e</sup>  
child being dangerously sick.

Dan Clark	his Sam <sup>l</sup>	June	3,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Hood Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Esther	"	"
John Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Timothy	"	17,
Robert Perkins	" Anna	"	24,
Aaron Estey	" Daniel	July	15,
Jacob Averell	" Mary	August	5,
Amos Dorman	" Daniel	"	"
Joseph Herrick Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Gideon	"	26,
Mark How	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	September	16,
David Cummings	" Elizabeth	"	30,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Moulton	" John	October	14,

baptized by Mr. Emerson of Malden.

Thomas Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Mary	November	11,
Thomas Dwinell Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Elijah	"	25,
Richard Towne	" Hannah	December	16,
John Dwinell Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Susannah	"	23,
John Lampson Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Robert	January	6, 1740.
Jonathan Foster	" Apphia	"	13,
Nathan Hood	" Nathan	"	"
Joshua Conant	" Pelutiah	"	20,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Smith Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Vashti	February	10,
Dorcas, y <sup>e</sup> Daughter of John and Elisabeth			

Emerson		March	9,
Joseph Baker	his Mehetabel	"	"
Isaac Towne	" Eunice	"	16,
Jonathan Treadwell	" Martha	"	30,
Joseph Dorman	" Nathanael	April	6,
Jonathan Stanley	" Mary	"	20,
Luke Averell	" Isaac	June	8,
Jonathan Perkins	" Philemon	"	15,
Aaron Hubbard	" Elnathan	"	"
Ephraim Wildes	" Moses	August	3,



## 12 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Joseph Curtis, Jun<sup>r</sup>, of adult age, and his child

Solomon.		August	10, 1740.
Sam <sup>l</sup> Howlett	" Miriam	"	24,
Thomas Andrus Jun <sup>r</sup>	" David	September	14,
Jacob Dorman	" Susannah	"	21,
Joseph Hovey	" Abigail	"	"
Jabez Towne	" Elijah	"	"
Joseph Cummings, Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	"	28,
Thomas Dorman	" Elizabeth	October	5,
Dan Clark	" Dan	"	19,
John Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Daniel	November	16,
Jacob Dwinell	" Israel	"	"
Eleazer Gould	" Eleazer	January	4, 1741.
Thomas Goodhall	" Joseph & }	twins	"
" "	" Benjamin		
Jacob Robinson	" Zacheus	"	18,
Jacob Perkins	" Zebulon	"	25,
Solomon Gould	" Nathanael	February	1,
Cornelius Balch	" Mary	March	15,
Israel Clark	" Samuel	"	22,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Porter Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Phebe	April	5,
Jacob Peabody Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	"	"
Elisha Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Bartholomew	"	12,
Thomas Cummings	" Thomas	"	"
Sam <sup>l</sup> Curtis	" John	"	19,
Joseph Perkins	" Huldah	"	"
Philip Neeland Jun <sup>r</sup>	" David	"	"
John Frichard	" Priscilla	"	26,
John Marshall	" Elizabeth	May	10,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Hood	" Abigail	"	24,
Thomas Baker	" Joseph	"	31,
John Batcheller	" Anna	June	14,
Mark How	" Philemon	"	28,
Thomas Edwards	" Rachel	"	"
Aaron Estey	" Esther	July	5,
Amos Dorman	" Daniel	"	12,
John Balch	" David	"	"
Stephen Foster	" Stephen	"	19,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Curtis	" Flora	"	"
a negro servant child			
Simon Gould	his Moses	"	26,
W <sup>m</sup> Perkins	" William	August	2,
Joseph Herrick Jun <sup>r</sup>	" William	"	"
Isaac Towne	" Isaac	"	"





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 13

Deborah, a Negro servant woman belonging to	August	9, 1741.
Joseph Herrick, and		
Katharine, a Negro servant maid belonging to	"	"
Joseph Porter: and		
Enos, a child son of said Deborahs and her	"	"
husband Sharper, a Negro man servant to		
Sam <sup>l</sup> Gott of Wenham		
Mical Holdgate	his Asa	October 4,
"	" Hannab	" "
Thomas Dwinell Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Eunice	" 25,
Joseph Dorman	" Ephraim	November 15,
Nathan Hood	" Daniel	" "
John Dodge	" Eunice	" 22,
Abigail, y <sup>e</sup> Daughter of John and Elizabeth		
Emerson		December 20,
Mical Holdgate	his Mary	January 24, 1742.
Simon Bradstreet Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Henry	February 14,
Jacob Estey	" Anna	" 23,
David Towne	" Abigail	March 7,
Thomas Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mercy	" 21,
Thomas Howlett	" Ammiruhamah	" "
Jonathan Standley	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	" "
John Balch	" John	April 4,
Jonathan Foster	" Jemima	" 18,
Ebenezer Curtis	" Stephen	" 25,
Jeremiah Towne	" Elisabeth	May 16,
Joseph Curtice Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Ruth	" "
Aaron Hovey	" Stephen	" "
Ruth Dodge	her Mary	" 23,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Smith Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Susanna	" 30,
Seabrew, a Negro servant man belonging to	June	20,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Pearley and		
Dinah, a negro servant child belonging to	"	"
Thomas Howlett		
Amos Hood, of adult age	"	27,
John Hood, of adult age	"	"
Ezekiel Potter	his Thomas	" "
Jacob Averell	" Priscilla	July 4,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Pearley	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	August 15,
Jacob Peabody Jun <sup>r</sup>	" John	October 3,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Potter Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Jeremiah	" 17,
Titus, a Negro servant child belonging to	"	"
Sam <sup>l</sup> Perkins		
Doctor Richard Dexter his Mehetabel	November	7,



# 14 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Eleazer Gould	his Elisabeth	November 14, 1742.
Joseph Hovey	" Mary	" 21,
Thomas Andrews	" Jonathan	" 23,
Benjamin Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	of adult age	January 16, 1743.
W <sup>m</sup> Rogers	his W <sup>m</sup>	February 6,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Porter Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Daniel	" "
Elisha Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Thomas	" 20,
Jacob Perkins	" Elisha	March 6,
Jacob Robinson	" Dorothy	" 13,
Luke Averell	" Elijah	" 20,
Israel Clark	" Bathsheba	April 10,
Cornelius Balch	" Martha	" "
Abraham Hobbs	" Isaac	" 24,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Curtis	" Rebeckah	May 15,
Thomas Baker	" Sarah	" 29,
Thomas Symonds	" Ruth	" "
Solomon Gould	" Lydia	June 19,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Hood Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sarah	" "
Ephraim Wildes	" Ephraim & }	twins " 26,
" "	" Elijah	
Mary Barall, of adult age		August 7,
Joseph Peabody	his Priscilla	" 21,
Ann Wallis, of adult age		September 4,
Joshua Conant	his Jerusha	" 11,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Potter Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Hannah	" "
Jeremiah Towne	" Jeremiah	" 18,
Jonathan Perkins	" Sarah	" 25,
Aaron Hubbard	" John	October 2,
Ezekiel Potter	" Ezekiel	" "
David Cummings	" Jonathan	" 16,
John Batcheller	" John	" 30,
Thomas Edwards	" Huldah	November 13,
Joseph Cummings	" Abigail	" "
Sam <sup>l</sup> Pearly	" John	" 27,
Isaac Towne	" Asa	December 4,
Elihu, y <sup>e</sup> son of John and Elisabeth Emerson		" 25,
Nathan Hood	" Mary	January 8, 1744.
John Dodge	" Abel	" "
Stephen Foster	" Nathanael	" 15,
Mark How	" Hepsibah	" 22,
Daniel Bixby	" Elisabeth	" "
Jonathan Stanley	" John	February 5,
Eleazer Gould	" Zacheus	" 12,
John Symonds	" John	" 26,





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 15

Sam <sup>l</sup> Smith Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Asahel	March	11, 1744.
Aaron Hovey	" Moses	"	18,
John Bradstreet	" Elizabeth	"	"
David Towne	" David	"	25,
John Balch	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	"
Isaac Perkins	" Mary	"	"
Jabez Town	" Abigail	April	1,
Micall Holdgate	" Sarah	"	15,
Thomas Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Dorcas	May	13,
John Prichard	" John	"	20,
Zilpah, a Negro Child of Sharper and Deborah			
his wife, Negro Servants		"	"
Jacob peabody Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Eunice	"	27,
Zilpah, y <sup>e</sup> child of Sharper and Katherine			
his wife, Negro Servants		"	"
W <sup>m</sup> Rogers	his Deborah	June	3,
Simon Gould	" Hannah	"	10,
and after publick Exercise went to y <sup>e</sup> House			
of Thomas Dwinell, and baptised Ruth y <sup>e</sup>			
child of y <sup>e</sup> widow Susanna Dwinell, y <sup>e</sup> child			
not being able to be brot to y <sup>e</sup> Meeting House			
Divers of y <sup>e</sup> chh: were present			
John Le Favour	his Mary	"	17,
Ephraim Wildes	" Mary	"	24,
Thomas Dwinell Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Jacob	July	8,
Joseph Perkins	" Joseph	"	22,
Jacob Dwinell	" Jacob	August	12,
Jonathan Foster	" Olive	"	26,
John Perkins, Third	" Elizabeth	"	"
Thomas Howlett	" Alice	September	9,
W <sup>m</sup> Perkins	" Oliver	October	21,
Dan Clark	" Dan	November	25,
Matthew Peabody	" Seth	December	2,
Ephraim Kimball Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	16,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Porter Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	January	6, 1745.
Thomas Symonds	" Anna	"	"
Joseph Curtis Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sam <sup>l</sup> & }	"	20,
" "	" Mary }		
David Cummings	" Stephen	"	27,
Elisha Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mercy	February	24,
Simon Bradstreet	" Philip	March	3,
Simon Bradstreet Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Ann	April	7,
Jacob Perkins	" Elisha	"	14,
Cornelius Balch	" Joseph	"	"



# 16 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Nathan <sup>l</sup> Low	his Jonathan	April	21, 1745.
Hannah, y <sup>e</sup> Daughter of John and Elizabeth Emerson		May	19,
Nehemiah Abbot	his Elisabeth	"	"
Abraham Hobbs	" Jacob	June	16,
George Start	" Sarah	July	7,
Jeremiah Towne	" Susanna	"	14,
John Symonds	" Mary	"	21,
John Balch	" Robert	"	28,
Israel Clark	" Jacob	August	11,
Ezekiel Potter	" Sarah	September	1,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Howlett Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	"
Daniel Bixby	" Ruth	October	6,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Pearley	" Nathaniel	"	13,
John LeFavour	" Rachel	"	"
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Hood Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Susanna	November	3,
John Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Jethro	"	24,
Jonathan Stanley	" Joseph	December	22,
John Bradstreet	" Priscilla	January	12, 1746.
Joseph Cummings Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Joseph	"	19,
Aaron Estey	" Aaron	February	2,
Nathan Hood	" Joseph	"	16,
Ebenezer Curtice	" Ephraim	"	"
Elisha Cummings	" Mary	"	"
Solomon Gould	" John	"	23,
Stephen Foster	" Abigail	March	2,
Eleazer Gould	" John	"	16,
Thomas Edwards	" Sarah	"	30,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Low	" Susanna	"	"
Elijah Porter	" Anna	April	20,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Porter Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Pheebe	May	18,
Joseph Perkins	" Elisha	"	25,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Baker	" Mary	June	8,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Benjamin	"	"
Sharper a Negro Ser- vant man	" Charles	"	"
Sam <sup>l</sup> Potter Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Daniel	"	15,
Eleazer Lake Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Lydia	July	13,
Jacob Dwinell	" John	"	27,
Simon Gould	" Jane	August	3,
Aaron Hovey	" Sarah	"	"
John Symonds	" Mary	September	7,
David Town	" Archelaus	"	"
Joseph Cummings	" Sarah	"	14,





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 17

Thomas Dwinell Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Susanna	September 14, 1746.
Israel Herrick	" Joseph	" 28,
Isaac Perkins	" John	October 5,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Phippen	" Mercy	" 12,
" "	" Mary	" "
" "	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	" "
" "	" Joseph	" "

Dorothy, y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of John and Eliz<sup>bth</sup> Emerson " 19,

Isaac, y<sup>e</sup> son of ——— and Katharine his wife  
Negro Servants " 26,

Ephraim Kimball Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Hannah	November 9,
John Boardman	" Elizabeth	" 23,
John Prichard	" Ruth & { twins	December 7,
" "	" Lydia	" "
Ephraim Wildes	" Hepzibah	" "
Robert Smith	" Elijah	" "
Joshua Conant	" Lot	" 28,
Thomas Symonds	" Hannah	" "
Benja <sup>m</sup> Bixby	" Benjamin	January 4, 1747.
John Perkins Third	" John	February 8,
Joseph Dorman	" Abigail	" 22,
Cornelius Balch	" Elizabeth	" "
Jacob Averell	" Amos	March 29,
George Starte	" William	" "
John Balch	" Hannah	" "
Nehemiah Abbot	" Eleanor	April 5,
Daniel Bixby	" Mary	" 12,
John Le Favour	" John	" 15,

which was baptized at his House, on a week  
Day, y<sup>e</sup> child being Dangerously sick, & expired soon after its Baptism.

Jabez Towne	his Ruth	May 3,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Averell Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	" 10,
Eleazer Curtice	" Lydia	" 17,
Zebulun Wildes	" Molly	" 24,
Micall Holdgate	" Priscilla	July 5,
Zebulun Wildes	" Peggy	" 12,
Anthony Potter	" Susanna	" 19,
Joseph Cummings Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Jonathan	" 26,
Jacob Perkins	" Abel	August 9,
Abraham Hobbs	" Joseph	" 23,



# 18 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Rebeckah and Ceasar two Negro Servant  
children belonging to Sam<sup>l</sup> Perkins, whose  
wife a Member of y<sup>e</sup> chh: Engaged for y<sup>e</sup>

Children.		August	30, 1747.
Elisha Cummings	his John	September	13,
Matthew Peabody	" Isaac	October	4,
W <sup>m</sup> . Conant	" W <sup>m</sup> .	"	11,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Pearley	" Ruth	November	8,
Daniel Cummings	" Lucy	"	15,
Elisha Towne, Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sarah	December	13,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Phippen	" Hannah	"	"
Joseph, son of John & Elizabeth Emerson		"	20,
Ezekiel Potter	his Nathan <sup>l</sup>	January	3, 1748.
Israel Herrick	" Israel	"	"
Israel Clark	" David	"	10,
Jonathan Standley	" Jedidiah	February	7,
John Le Favour	" John	March	27,
Nathan Hood	" Benjamin	April	3,
John Symonds	" Joanna	"	"
Joseph Peabody	" Peggy	"	17,
Richard Gould	" John	May	1,
Jacob Dwinell	" Mehetabel	"	8,
Sharper a Negro serv <sup>t</sup>	" Charles	June	5,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Potter	" Prudence	July	17,
Jacob Dresser	" Molly	"	31,
Eliezer Gould	" Huldah	August	7,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Howlett Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Elizabeth	"	21,
Aaron Estey	" William	"	28,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Porter Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Abigail	September	25,
Robert Smith	" Elisha	October	9,
John Prichard	" Mary	"	16,
Jeremiah Towne	" Nehemiah	"	23,
John Boardman	" John	November	6,
John Perkins Third	" Daniel	"	13,
Mical Coffeen	" Mary	"	20,

But y<sup>e</sup> Child was baptized upon y<sup>e</sup> account  
of Eliezer Lake & his wife, y<sup>e</sup> grand Parents,  
who took it as y<sup>r</sup> own.

Joseph Hovey	his Joseph	"	20,
James Andrews	" John	"	27,
George Starte	" George	December	18,
Stephen Gould	" Stephen	"	"
John Bradstreet	" Molly	"	25,
Cornelius Balch	" Cornelius	"	"





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 19

Joshua Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Sarah	December, 18, 1748.
Ebenezer Averell	" Ruth	January 1, 1749.
Elijah Porter	" Betty	" 22,
John Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Esther	" 29,
Elisha Cummings	" Andrew	February 12,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Foster	" Elijah	March 5,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Symonds	" Jacob	April 16,
Richard Gould	" Susanna	" "
Aaron Hovey	" Dorcas	" 23,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mercy	May 7,
Ephraim Wildes	" Hannah	" 14,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Pearly	" Enoch	" 21,
David Town	" Joseph	" "
Eliezer Lake Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Lydia	" "
Simon Gould	" Lucy	" 28,
Cap <sup>t</sup> Tho <sup>s</sup> Baker	" Jonathan	July 2,
Joseph Cummings	" Martha	" "
Joshua Balch	" Joshua	" "
Zachariah Dwinell	" Betty	" "
Stephen Foster	" Jacob	" 30,
W <sup>m</sup> Conant	" Elizabeth	" "
Tho <sup>s</sup> Dwinell	" Stephen	August 6,
David Cummings	" Daniel	September 3,
John Le Favour	" Annah	" "
Mical Holdgate	" Mary	" "
Jacob Robinson	" Sarah	" 17,
Nehemiah Abbot	" John	" "
Ephraim Kimball Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Ezra	" "
Eliezer Gould	" Elizabeth	" 24,
John Gould	" John	October 8,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Elizabeth	" 22,
John Symonds	" Joseph	" 29,
John Hale	" Elizabeth	November 12,
Abner Hale	" David	December 3,
Joseph Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Jonathan	" 17,
Abraham Hobbs	" Benjamin	" 31,
Jonathan Stanly	" Joseph	January 28, 1750.
Stephen Gould	" Hannah	February 11,
Eleazer Curtis	" Sarah	March 4,
Eleazer Killam	" Sarah	" "
Jabez Town	" Susanna	April 1,
Nathan Hood	" Elizabeth	" 22,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Phippen	" Mehetabel	" "
Joseph Curtis	" Pheebe	" 29,
Widow Conant	her Joshua	" "



# 20 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Zebulun Wildes	his Zebulun	May	27, 1750.
John Baker	" Mary	June	10,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Averell, Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Hannah	August	19,
James Andrews	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	"
Joseph, son of John and	Elizabeth Emerson	September	9,
Stephen Emery	his John	October	7,
Joshua Balch	" Archelaus	"	14,
y <sup>e</sup> ordinance administered privately y <sup>e</sup> child being Judged dangerously sick.			
Matthew Peabody	his Deborah	October	28,
John Pricherd	" Huldah	"	"
Elijah Foster	" Elizabeth	"	"
Joshua Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Jacob	December	30,
James Curtis Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Hannah	January	20, 1751.
Jeremiah Towne	" William	February	3,
John Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mary	"	"
Richerd Marshall Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Richerd	"	10,
Jacob Dwinell	" Ruth	"	17,
Retiah Bacon	" Jacob	"	"
George Starte	" John	"	"
John Hood	" Richerd	March	3,
Joseph Symonds Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mehetabel	"	24,
Benj <sup>m</sup> Bayly	" Elizabeth	"	"
Daniel Bixby	" Daniel	April	21,
John Boardman	" Mary	"	28,
Elisha Cummings	" Isaac	"	"
Thomas Foster	" Allen	"	"
Elijah Porter	" Thomas	May	5,
Widow Buzzell, her two children			
	Ruth	"	12,
	John	"	"
John Gould	his Benj <sup>m</sup>	"	19,
Robert Smith	" Thomas	June	9,
John Bradstreet	" Mehetabel	"	16,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Baker	" David	"	30,
Joseph Cummings Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Hannah	"	"
Tho <sup>s</sup> Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Andrew	July	14,
Benj <sup>m</sup> Bixby	" Anne	"	"
Tamar, a negro Servant child belonging to Eli- jah Porter, who Engaged to bring it up in y <sup>e</sup> Christian Religion			
David Cummings Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Ebenezer	"	21,
Thomas Dwinell	" Thomas	"	28,
David Cummings Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Elizabeth	September	22,





BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 21

Benj <sup>m</sup> Woodbury	" Elizabeth	October	20, 1751.
Aaron Hovey	" Huldah	"	27,
John Le Favour	" Robert	Nov <sup>m</sup>	3,
Eliezer Lake Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Eliezer	"	"
Joseph Hale 3 <sup>d</sup>	" Sarah	"	17,
Jonathan Stanley	" Hannah	December	8,
Ebenezer Averell	" Ebenezer	"	22,
Abraham Hobbs	" David	January	12, 1752.
David Towne	" Archelaus	"	"
Amos Wildes	" Mary	Februaay	9,
Nathan Hood	" Mehetabel	March	29,
Widow Lucy Perkins	her Elisha	"	"
Stephen Gould	his Elijah	April	5,
Jenny, a Negro Servant Child belonging to y <sup>e</sup> widow Lucy Perkins, who publickly and sol- emnly Engaged to bring up s <sup>d</sup> child in y <sup>e</sup> Christian Religion			
John Pricherd	his Eunice	May	24,
Abner Hale	" Amos	June	7,
Simon Gould	" Huldah	"	"
John Lampson 3 <sup>d</sup>	" Anna	"	14,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Low	" Amos	"	"
Tho <sup>s</sup> Symonds	" Hepsibah	"	28,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Smith	" Anna	July	5,
David Cummings	" Archelaus	"	"
John Baker	" Priscilla	"	12,
Joseph Curtis	" Lydia	"	"
Tho <sup>s</sup> Baker Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Tho <sup>s</sup>	August	23,
Asa Pearley	" Daniel	"	30,
James Andrew	" Robert	October	1,
Jacob Gould	" Jacob	"	15,
Joseph Symonds Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	"
W <sup>m</sup> oyles	" Lydia	"	22,
Joseph Browne	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	"
Sam <sup>l</sup> Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Thomas	November	5,
Joseph Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Elizabeth	"	19,
Eliezer Gould	" Rebekah	December	10,
Samson, a Negro Serv <sup>t</sup> man belonging to Doct <sup>r</sup>		January	7, 1753.
Dexter, was baptized		"	"
John Creed, of adult age		"	21,
John Boardman	" Daniel	"	28,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Moore	" Mary	February	4,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Elisha	"	"
John Creed	" Joseph	"	11,
		"	"



## 22 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Cap <sup>t</sup> Tho <sup>s</sup> Baker	his Rebeckah	February 18, 1753.
Israel Averell	" Eunice	" 25,
John Bradstreet	" Huldah	" "
John Peabody	" Lucy	April 8,
Lydia Dwinell, of adult age		" 15,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Foster	his Abigail	" 22,
John Clarke	" Hannah	" 29,
David Perkins	" Ezra	" "
Joshua Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Lucy	May 20,
Benj <sup>m</sup> Bixby	" Sarah	" 27,
Benj <sup>m</sup> Woodbury	" Daniel	" "
Eleazer Curtis	" Betty	June 3,
Cornelius Waldo, son of John & Elizabeth Emerson		" 10,
Jacob Curtis	his Jacob	" 17,
Joseph Perkins	" Jacob	" 24,
Jacob Gould	" Richerd	" "
Jonathan Towne	" Jonathan	" "
Amos Wildes	" Lois	July 22,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Gould	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	" 29,
Mical Holdgate	" Sarah	August 5,
Ebenezer Killem	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	" "
Tho <sup>s</sup> Edwards	" Abraham	" 12,
Joseph Edwards	" Andrew	" "
David Balch Jun <sup>r</sup>	" David	" 26,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Phippen	" Sarah	September 16,
Jonathan Foster	" Jonathan	" 23,
Joseph Cummings Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mary	" "
Robert Perkins	" Ruth	October 7,
Zebulun Wildes	" Mercy	" 14,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Dwinell	" Amos	November 4,
Bartholomew Dwinell	" Hannah	" "
John Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Elizabeth	" 18,
David Prichard	" Dolly	" 25,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Smith	" Jacob	December 2,
Deacon Daniel Gould	" Daniel	" 9,
Thomas Perkins	" Thomas	" "
Joseph Gould	" Joseph	" "
Daniel Lake	" Daniel	January 27, 1754.
Richard Marshall	" Jemima	February 17,
John Gould	" Esther	March 17,
Micall Holdgate	" Hannah	" "
Stephen Gould	" Stephen	" 24,
Philip Neeland Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Aaron	" 31,





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 23

Abraham Hobbs	his Jonathan	March	31, 1754.
John Bradstreet	" Huldah	April	21,
John LeFavour	" Thomas	"	"
Aaron Hovey	" Tho <sup>s</sup>	"	28,
David Towne	" Eunice	May	19,
Joseph Hale 3 <sup>d</sup>	" Mary	"	26,
Elijah Porter	" Sarah	June	9,
Nathan Hood	" Susanna	"	23,
John Lampson 3 <sup>d</sup>	" Elizabeth	July	7,
Joseph Symonds Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Joseph	August	11,
Jacob Dwinell	" Phebe	"	18,

Sarah, wife of Luis Andrews, baptized LORDS

Day Evening in her own House at her repeated Request, She appearing on y<sup>e</sup> Brink of

Eternity and giving Christian Satisfaction	September	15,
Elisha Cummings	his Elisha	" 29,
Jacob Curtice	" Stephen	" "
Eliezer Lake Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sarah	October 6,
Nathan <sup>ll</sup> Low	" Molly	" 13,
Edmund Putnam	" Israel	Nov <sup>m</sup> 17,
Thomas Moor	" Abigail	December 8 <sup>th</sup>
John Hale	" Mehetabel	February 9, 1755.
Jacob Gould	" Ruth	" "
David Balch Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sam <sup>ll</sup>	" 16,
Amos Wildes	" Amos	" "
Moses Perkins	" Moses	" "
De <sup>a</sup> Daniel Gould	" Elisha	" 23,
Asa Pearley	" Henry	" "
John Cree	" Asa	" "
W <sup>m</sup> Stickney	" Eunice	March 2 <sup>d</sup> ,
Sam <sup>ll</sup> Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Richerd	" 16,
Joseph Magery	" Sarah	" "
(also Majory)		

Jeremiah Gallop, of adult age	"	"
Tho <sup>s</sup> Foster	his Ebenezer	April 6,
John Clark	" Mary	" 13,
Jonathan Foster	" Moses	" "
Ebenezer Averell	" David	" "
Eli Towne	" Elizabeth	" 20,
Nathan <sup>ll</sup> Smith	" Miriam	" 27,
Benjamin Woodbury	" Aaron	May 4,
Paul Pricherd	" Amos	" 11,
" "	" Jeremiah	" "
Daniel Black	" Abigail	" "



## 24 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

w <sup>h</sup> Baptisms (preceeding three) w <sup>r</sup> administered in Boxford Meeting House 1 <sup>st</sup> Chh :			
Robert Perkins	his Hannah	June	1 <sup>st</sup> , 1755.
Joseph Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Deborah	"	8 <sup>th</sup> ,
Benj <sup>m</sup> Bayley	" Mary	"	"
James Andrews	" James	"	15 <sup>th</sup> ,
Thomas Baker Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sarah	"	"
Israel Herrick	" Elizabeth	"	"
Archelaus Dwinell	" Archelaus	"	29 <sup>th</sup> ,
Peter Robinson	" Sarah	"	"
" "	" John	"	"
Ebenezer Killem	" Hannah	July	13,
Enoch Perkins	" John	"	20,
Isaac Perkins	" Robert	"	27,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins, Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sarah	August	24,
George Dwinelles Child, upon y <sup>e</sup> account of his grand Parents		September	28,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Phippen	his Ruth	November	9,
Joseph Cummings Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Jonathan	"	"
Simon Gould	" Simon	"	16,
Israel Davis	" Hannah	"	23,
John Le Favour	" Lydia	December	7,
David Pricherd	" Eli	"	"
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins	" William	"	14,
Bartholomew Dwinell	" Mical	"	"
Cap <sup>t</sup> Tho <sup>s</sup> Baker	" Martha	"	21,
William Gallop, of adult age and s <sup>d</sup> Gallop's Children, viz,		"	"
	Susanna	"	"
	Rebekah	"	"
	Hepsibah	"	"
	William	"	"
	Mary	"	"
	Love	"	"
Sam <sup>l</sup> Tapley and Abiel his wife, and Sam <sup>l</sup> their youngest Son		"	28,
John Baker	his John	January	4 <sup>th</sup> , 1756.
Timothy Dorman	" Eunice	"	"
Huldah Tapley	} of adult age	"	"
Alexander Tapley		"	"
Hannah Marstin		"	"
Elijah Porter	his Dorothy	"	11,
Isaac Perkins	" Isaac	"	"
Tho <sup>s</sup> Andrew	" Lucy	"	18,
Joseph Gould	" Daniel	"	"





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 25

Jabez Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Lydia	January 18, 1756.
Mary Cree	} of adult age	" "
Sarah Cree		
Phebe Towne		
Alice, an Indian woman		
Eliezer Curtis Jun <sup>r</sup>		" 20,
one week Day & in a private House, he being sick.		
John Bradstreet	his Sarah	February 1 <sup>st</sup> ,
Prudence Towne	} of adult age	" "
Anna Towne &		
Francis Towne		
John Boardman	his Eunice	February 8 <sup>th</sup> ,
Benj <sup>m</sup> Bixby	" Dudley	" 29,
W <sup>m</sup> . Gallop	" Elizabeth	March 7,
Molly Hood, a child, upon Joseph Hovey & wifes account, who engaged to bring her up in y <sup>e</sup> christian Religion.		March 28,
Archelaus Dwinell	his Amos	" "
Archelaus Rea	" John	April 4,
" "	" Archelaus	" "
Jonathan Towne	" Esther	" "
Richerd Cree	} of adult age	" 11,
John Bac k		
Mical Holdgate		
Joshua Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Joshua	" "
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins 3 <sup>d</sup>	" Archelaus	" "
David Balch Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Israel	" 25,
Francis Satchell	" John	" "
John Gould	" Elizabeth	May 9,
Stephen Gould	" Abner	" "
Abraham Hobbs	" Elijah	" 16,
David Perkins	" David	" "
Israel Averell	" Israel	June 13,
Jacob Curtice	" Lemuel	" 27,
Archelaus Rea	" Caleb	" "
Eliezer Gould	" Bezaleel	July 11,
Joseph Hale 3 <sup>d</sup>	" Joseph	" "
Richerd Marshall	" Nathan <sup>ll</sup>	" 18,
Moses Perkins	" Elijah	" 25,
Moses Pearley	" Sarah	August 1.
at Rowley 2 <sup>d</sup> Chh.		
Enoch Perkins	" Rebeckah	" "
by m <sup>r</sup> . Chanter at Topsfield.		
Stephen Perkins	his Dorothy	" 15,



## 26 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPEFIELD.

Stephen Perkias	his Mary	August	15, 1756.
Jacob Perkins 3 <sup>d</sup>	" Rachel	September	5,
Isaac Estey	" Stephen	"	12,
Aaron Hovey	" Ivory	"	19,
Jacob Wildes	" Lydia	"	"
Abner Hale	" Lucy	October	3,
Jacob Dwinell	" Ruth	"	17,
John Lampson 3 <sup>d</sup>	" John	"	"
Daniel Lake	" Enos	"	31,
Tho <sup>r</sup> Moor	" Hannah	"	"
John Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" John	November	28,
Richerd Cree	" Rebeckah	"	"
Joseph Hale Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Susanna	December	12,
Stephen Symonds	" Mary	"	"
Widow Abigail Edwards	her Mehetael	"	"
Eliczer Lake Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Robert	January	2, 1757.
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Smith	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	"	9,
Jacob Gould	" Elizabeth	"	"
Jonathan Foster	" Dorcas	"	16,
Solomon Gould	" David	February	27,
Capt Israel Herrick	" Mary	March	6,
Widow Eunice (?) Dwi-			
nell	her Susanna	"	20,
Daniel Kimball	his Nathan <sup>l</sup>	April	10,
Joseph Majory	" Joseph	"	24,
Ebenezer Averell	" Elijah	May	29,
John Le=Favour	" Amos	June	5,
Paul Pricherd	" Pearley	"	12,
Retia Bacon	" Susanna	July	17,
baptized at Boxford.			
Decon Daniel Gould	" Lucy	"	31,
Amos Wildes	" Asa	"	"
John Cree	" Elizabeth	"	"
(above three) by <sup>r</sup> m <sup>r</sup> . Chanler w <sup>r</sup> baptized.			
Will <sup>m</sup> Oils	his Lydia	August	7,
Robert Perkins	" Lydia	"	"
Benj <sup>m</sup> Bayley	" Susanna	"	14,
Will <sup>m</sup> Hood	" Amos	"	21,
Jacob Kimball	" Benj <sup>m</sup>	"	"
Benj <sup>m</sup> Woodbury	" John	"	28,
Bartholomew Dwinell	" Sarah	Septemb <sup>r</sup>	4,
Jabez Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Moses	"	11,
Michael Chute	" Joseph	"	25,
baptized at Newbury.			





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 27

Joseph Knight	his John	October	2, 1757.
Paul Averell	" Joseph	"	"
Joseph Hutchinson	" Joseph	"	"
Bimsley Peabody	" Bimsley	"	"
Amos Curtis	" Rachel	"	"
Daniel Peabody	" Dorothy	"	"
baptized at Middleton (above six)			
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins	his Jemima	"	9,
Cap <sup>t</sup> Israel Davis	" Israel	"	16,
John Peabody	" Hannah	"	"
John Hood	" Eunice	"	23,
John Grant	" Prudence	"	"
Timothy Dorman	" Timothy	"	30,
Elijah Porter	" Hannah	November	6,
Joseph Gould	" Priscilla	"	13,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Kimball	" Huldah	December	4,
Joseph Cumings Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Hannah	January	8, 1758.
Simon Gould	" Elijah	March	5,
Sarah Daughter of John and Elizabeth Emerson.			
		"	12,
Pelataiah Cummings	his Pelataiah	"	"
Nathan <sup>ll</sup> Low	" Molly	"	26,
John Bradstreet	" Lucy	April	2,
Stephen Gould	" Eunice	"	"
Nathan <sup>ll</sup> Smith	" Ruth	"	9,
Moses Perkins	" Tho <sup>s</sup>	"	"
Eliezer Gould	" Jedidiah	"	16,
Jonathan Towne	" Amos	"	30,
Jonathan Bixby	" David	May	17,
Baptized on a week Day in y <sup>e</sup> 2 <sup>d</sup> Parrish in			
Boxford in a Private House, y <sup>e</sup> child being			
sick. Also baptized.			
Stephen Emery	his Betty	"	"
s <sup>d</sup> Emery going in to y <sup>e</sup> War.			
Sam <sup>ll</sup> Phippen	his Jonathan-Atwater	"	21 <sup>st</sup> ,
James Andrews	" Amasa	"	28 <sup>th</sup> ,
Stephen Symonds	" Martha	June	4,
Benj <sup>m</sup> Bixby	" Enos	"	11,
John Baker	" Moses	"	25,
Jacob Dwinell	" Abigail	July	9,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Dwinell	" Hannah	"	"
Archelaus Rea	" Mary	August	20,
Isaac Estey	" Abigail	September	10,
John Lampson 3 <sup>d</sup>	" Abigail	"	17,
Joseph Hale 3 <sup>d</sup>	" Hannah	October	8,



# 28 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Retia Bacon	his Molly	October	8, 1758.
Daniel Kimball	" John	"	22,
Stephen Perkins	" Abigail	Nov <sup>br</sup>	12,
Fuller	" John	"	26,
baptized at Middleton.			
Jacob Kimball	" Mehetabel	Decemb <sup>r</sup>	3,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Moor	" Elizabeth	"	"
Tho <sup>s</sup> Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Dorcas	"	"
Widow Martha Dwinell	her Jonathan	"	10,
W <sup>m</sup> Gallop	his Amos	"	24,
Amos Wildes	" Dudley	January	7, 1759.
David Balch Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Tho <sup>s</sup>	February	4,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Kimball	" Sarah	"	"
Zebulun Wildes	" Ezra	March	4,
Deacon Daniel Gould	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	11,
John Peabody	" Mehetabel	"	"
Tho <sup>s</sup> Baker Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Olive	April	1,
John Le=Favour	" Ruth	"	8,
Jacob Gould	" Edna	"	"
Sam <sup>l</sup> Cummings	" Sarah	"	15,
Abraham Hobbs	" Susanna	"	22,
David Perkins	" Mercy	"	"
James Burch	" Jedidiah	May	6,
Solomon Gould	" Ruth	"	13,
Joseph Cummings Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mehetabel	"	"
Abner Curtis	" Abner	"	20,
baptized at Boxford 1 <sup>st</sup> chh.			
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins	his Rebeckah	June	3,
y <sup>e</sup> last Child baptized in y <sup>e</sup> old Meeting House.			
Elijah Bradstreet	his Elizabeth	"	24,
Eliezer Gould	" Aholiab	July	16,
baptized in Private y <sup>e</sup> Child apprehended to be dangerously ill,			
Sam <sup>l</sup> Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Enos	August	12,
Joseph Gould	" Sarah	"	26,
John Cree	" Cornelius	Septemb <sup>br</sup>	16,
Daniel Lake	" Henry	"	23,
W <sup>m</sup> Hood	" Lydia	October	21,
Benj <sup>m</sup> Bixby	" Asa	November	25,
Joseph Magory	" Hannah	"	"
Benj <sup>m</sup> Bayley	" Mehetabel	December	23,
Joseph Andrew	" Hepsibah	January	13, 1760.
Bartholomew Dwinell	" Lucy	"	"
John Hood	" John	March	2,





BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 29

Tho <sup>s</sup> Foster	his Mehetabel	March	2, 1760.
Eliezer Lake Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mehetabel	"	16,
—— Smith	" Mary	April	6,
baptized at Rowley, 2 <sup>d</sup> Parrish.			
Benj <sup>m</sup> Woodbury	his Lydia	"	13,
Jacob Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Daniel	"	20,
Pelatiah Cummings	" Lydia	"	27,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins	" Moses	May	4,
John Lampson 3 <sup>d</sup>	" Abigail	"	11,
Robert Perkins	" Robert	June	1,
W <sup>m</sup> Jewett	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	8,
Daniel Averell	" Sarah	"	22,
Amos Perkins	" Kezia	August	3,
Joseph Lystia (?)	" Joseph	"	10,
Enoch Perkins	" Enoch	"	"
John Bradstreet	" Eunice	"	17,
Isaac Estey,	" Hannah	"	"
baptized by M <sup>r</sup> Holyoak (above two)			
David Kenney	his David	September 28,	
baptized at Middleton.			
John Le-Favour	" W <sup>m</sup>	"	"
baptized at Topsfield by M <sup>r</sup> Smith.			
Tho <sup>s</sup> Howlett	his Sarah	October	12,
Molly Hoopper, of adult age, upon owing y <sup>e</sup>		"	19,
Cov <sup>t</sup> was baptized: also a			
Negro Serv <sup>t</sup> Child, named Dinah, y <sup>e</sup> Master		"	"
and Mistress Engaging to instruct s <sup>d</sup> child in			
y <sup>e</sup> Christian Religion.			
Richard Cree	his Stephen	December 28,	
Deacon Daniel Gould	" Lydia	January	11, 1761.
Jeremiah Dodge	" Abigail	Febr <sup>y</sup>	1,
Joseph Towne	" Elizabeth	"	22,
Jacob Gould	" Susanna	"	"
Jacob Kimball	" Jacob	"	"
Tho <sup>s</sup> Moors	" Lois	March	1,
Dan <sup>l</sup> Lake	" Jonathan	"	22,
Joseph Gould	" Mary	"	29,
Thos Baker Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mary	April	12,
David Balch Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Tho <sup>s</sup>	"	"
Moses Perkins	" David	"	"
baptized by m <sup>r</sup> Holyoak (above three)			
Ceasar, a Negro Servant Child, belonging to		"	19,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Cummings: y <sup>e</sup> Master & Mistress en-			
gaging to instruct and bring up y <sup>e</sup> child for			
GOD.			



### 30 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Tho <sup>s</sup> Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Anna	May	17, 1761.
John Jacobs	" Mary	June	14,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Dwinell	" Molly	July	26,
Jn <sup>o</sup> Fraser	" Elizabeth	August	16,
baptized at Byfield.			
Joseph Cummings	" Elijah	Septemb <sup>r</sup>	27,
Jonathan Towne	" Pheebe	October	4,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Duston	" Ebenezer	"	18,
Amos Bayley	" Ednah	"	"
" "	" Woodbridge	"	"
Amos Page	" Parker	"	"
" "	" Abia	"	"
Ebenezer Mitchell	" Esther	"	"
Timothy Eaton	" Timothy	"	"
baptized in Haverhill, West Parish.			
(above seven)			
Dan <sup>l</sup> Kimball	his Eunice	Novb <sup>r</sup>	1,
Francis Towne	" Lydia	Decemb <sup>r</sup>	6,
W <sup>m</sup> Gallop	" Enos	"	13,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Howlett	" Lydia	"	"
Davis Howlett	" Cornelius	"	27,
Richerd Lang	" Benj <sup>m</sup>	February	6, 1762.
baptized at Salem			
W <sup>m</sup> Hood	" Susanna	"	21,
baptized (by) M <sup>r</sup> Holyoak.			
Ensign Solomon Gould	his Amos	"	28,
Stephen Hovey	" Aaron	March	14,
Isaac Perkins	" Pheebe	"	21,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Foster	" Dan <sup>l</sup>	"	"
John Hood	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	28,
Bartholomew Dwinell	" Bartholomew	"	"
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Dan <sup>l</sup>	April	4,
Amos Wildes	" Jammie	"	11,
Jn <sup>o</sup> Clough	" Jn <sup>o</sup>	"	25,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins	" Susanna	May	9,
Benj <sup>m</sup> Bixby	" George	"	"
Solomon Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	"	"
Sam <sup>l</sup> Cummings	" David	"	23,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Low	" Jonathan	June	20,
Robert Perkins	" Asa	"	"
Dan <sup>l</sup> Averell	" Dan <sup>l</sup>	"	"
John Le-Favour	" Sarah	July	4,
Jn <sup>o</sup> Peabod [y]	" Jn <sup>o</sup>	"	18,
Jn <sup>o</sup> Baker Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mary	"	25,
baptized (by) M <sup>r</sup> Chanler.			





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 31

Tho <sup>s</sup> Wildes	his Jacob	September 26, 1762.
David Towne	" Tho <sup>s</sup>	October 17,
Jeremiah Foster	" Joshua	" 24,
Jacob Hazen	" Jacob	" "

baptized at Boxford, 1st Parrish.

Peletiah Cummings	his Mehetabel	" 31,
Elijah Clarke	" Humphrey	" "
Tho <sup>s</sup> Hodgdon	" Rebekah	November 14,
John Lampson Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Ruth	" 28,
Deacon Dan <sup>l</sup> Gould	" Ruth	December 5,
Eliezer Lake Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Joseph	" 12,
Benj <sup>m</sup> Bayley	" Benj <sup>m</sup>	" 19,
Isaac Averell	" Elijah	" 26,
David Balch Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Richerd	January 2, 1763.
Tho <sup>s</sup> Moor	" Deborah	" 16,
Joseph Gould	" Emerson	" 23,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Benj <sup>m</sup>	" 30,
Jacob Kimball	" Priscilla	March 13,
Francis Towne	" Pheebe	April 10,
John Jacobs	" Sarah	" 24,
W <sup>m</sup> Hood	" Moses	May 22,
Joseph Andrews	" Joseph	" 29,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mary	June 19,
John Herrick	" Anna	July 31,
Timothy Eaton	" James	August 14,

baptized in y<sup>e</sup> West Parrish in Haverhill.

Dan <sup>l</sup> Reddington	his Dan <sup>l</sup>	September 4,
Elijah Clarke	" Mary	" 11,
Richard Cree	" Molly	October 16,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Howlett	" Elizabeth	" 23,
Archelaus Rea	" Uzziel	November 6,
Stephen Foster Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	" "
Dan <sup>l</sup> Hood	" Lucy	" "
Dan <sup>l</sup> Kimball	" Dudley	" 27,

baptized by y<sup>e</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> m<sup>r</sup> Holyoake.

Nathan Hood Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Nathan <sup>l</sup>	December 4,
Bartholomew Dwinell	" Anna	" 18,
Davis Howlett	" Molly	" "
Capt Tho <sup>s</sup> Cummings	" Israel	" 25,
Joseph Cummings	" Amos	" "
Sam <sup>l</sup> Bradstreet	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	January 8, 1764.
Amos Perkins	" Betty	February 12,
Stephen Hovey	" Mary	March 4,
Peter Chever	" Peter Osgood	" 18,

baptized at Salem.



## 32 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Joseph Perkins	his Jacob	March	25, 1764.
Stephen Towne Jun <sup>r</sup> and		April	15,
Sarah, wife of Elijah Dwinell,		"	"
both of adult age: also			
John Le-Favour	his Joseph	"	"
Sam <sup>l</sup> Harris Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sarah	"	"
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins	" Dan <sup>l</sup>	"	22,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Cummings Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Jonah	"	"
Sam <sup>l</sup> Cree and		"	29,
Stephen Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>		"	"
both of adult age			
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Israel	May	20,
David Balch Jun <sup>r</sup>	" W <sup>m</sup>	"	27,
John Baker Jun <sup>r</sup>	" John	July	8,
John Peabody	" Mehetabel	August	12,
Daniel Lake	" Nathan	"	19,
Solomon Curtis	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	26,
by m <sup>r</sup> Chandler			
Jacob Gould	" Jacob	September	9,
Edmund Towne	" Edmund	"	23,
John Clough	" Oliver	"	"
by m <sup>r</sup> Lesslie (above two)			
I baptized at Newbury-Port			
Benj <sup>m</sup> Moody	his Benj <sup>m</sup> &	"	"
Richerd ———	" Richerd	"	"
Peter Emerson	" Abigail	October	14,
James Chase	" Sarah	"	"
Enoch Herriman	" Sarah	"	"
John Bradley	" Mary	"	"
baptized at Haverhill West Parrish.			
John Balch	his Cornelius	"	21,
" "	" Roger	"	"
" "	" Rebekah	"	"
Benj <sup>m</sup> Bixby	" Rachel	"	"
Isaac Averell	" Joseph	November	4,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Anna	"	11,
Pelatiah Cummings	" Sarah	December	2,
Solomon Gould	" Solomon	"	16,
Dan <sup>l</sup> Hood	" Jacob	January	13, 1765.
Joseph Gould	" John	"	27,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Moor	" Tho <sup>s</sup>	"	"
John Jacobs	" Rebekah	"	"
Nathan Hood Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Nathan	March	10,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Howlett	" John	"	17.
Amos Porter	" Lydia	April	7,





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 33

Joseph Perkins	his Anna	May	19, 1765.
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins	" Rachel	June	2,
Joseph Perkins	" Anna	"	"
Jacob Kimball	" Anna	"	9,
Francis Towne	" Rebekah	"	"
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Fiske	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	"	"
Isaac Pearley	" Isaac	"	23,
baptized at Boxford first Parish.			
Thomas Emerson	his Billy	August	4,
Thomas Wildes	" Daniel	"	11,
baptized by m <sup>r</sup> Holyoak.			
John Lampson Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Sarah	"	25,
Stephen Foster Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Matta	"	"
Peter Chever	" Sam <sup>l</sup> and	September	8,
Archelaus Hayward	" Archelaus	"	"
baptized at Salem & m <sup>r</sup> Lesslie baptized at Topsfield			
Dan <sup>l</sup> Averell	his Solomon	"	"
Jacob Andrews	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	"	15,
baptized at Boxford & m <sup>r</sup> Holyoake baptized at Topsfield			
Dan <sup>l</sup> Kimball	his Joseph	"	"
Stephen Hovey	" Abigail	"	29,
John Bradstreet	" Dudley	October	13,
Joseph Andrews	" Salome	November	3,
Abraham Hobbs Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Elizabeth	"	"
Thomas Cummings	" Joseph	December	22,
Benjamin Bayley	" Dinah	January	26, 1766.
John Le-Favour	" Amos	February	2,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Bradstreet	" Ruth	March	23,
Thomas Foster	" Thomas	"	30,
Thomas Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Hannah	"	"
Widow Vashti Curtis	her Solomon	April	13,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Elizabeth	May	25,
John May	" Abigail	"	"
" "	" Elizabeth	"	"
John May	" John	June	8,
Deacon Dan <sup>l</sup> Gould	" Moses	"	22,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Harris	" Mary	"	"
Jeremiah Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Asa	July	6,
Dan <sup>l</sup> Reddington	" Jacob	August	10,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins	" Lydia	October	12,
also baptized			
Elizabeth Robinson of adult age		"	"



# 34 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Tho <sup>s</sup> Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Sarah	November 2, 1766.
Jacob Gould	" Lois	" 9,
Daniel Hood	" Ruth	" "
Isaac Hobbs	" Sarah	" 16,
Archelaus Rea	" Sarah	" 23,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Perkins	" Elijah	" 30,
Philip Thomas	" Mary	" "
Philip Thomas	" Francis	January 25, 1767.
Joseph Gould	" Cornelius	February 1,
Pelatiah Cummings	" Isaac	" "
Daniel Averell	" Joanna	March 15,
Daniel Lake	" Sarah	" 22,
Thomas Howlett	" Mary	" "
W <sup>m</sup> Hood	" Aaron	April 5,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Pearley	" Mehetabel	" 12,
baptized at Boxford first Parish.		
Benjamin Marshall	his Mary	May 17,
Jacob Goodhue	" Anna	" "
" "	" Martha	" "
Jonathan Cogswell	" Hannah	" "
" "	" Benjamin	" "
baptized at Chebacco, in Ipswich.		
Jonathan Towne	his Jedidiah	" 24,
baptized at Boxford first Parish;		
m <sup>r</sup> Hovey baptized at Topsfield		
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Fisk	his Ruth	" "
John Bacheller Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Lydia	" 31,
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Averell Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Nathan <sup>l</sup> Perkins	June 14,
Thomas Wildes	" Huldah	" 28,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Bradstreet	" Elijah	July 5,
Isaac Averell	" Isaac	August 9,
Joseph Perkins	" Henry	" 23,
baptized by m <sup>r</sup> Holyoke.		
Jacob Kimball	his Lucy	September 6,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Cummings	" Mehetabel	" "
Francis Towne	" Francis	" "
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Hood Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Enos	" 13,
Davis Howlett	" Martha	" "
Aaron Estey Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Joseph	" "
Abraham Hobbs Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Lydia	" 27,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Perkins	" Dolly	October 18.
Robert Perkins	" Mehetabel	November 29,
Isaac Hobbs	" Elijah	January 24, 1768.
John Batcheller Jun <sup>r</sup>	" John	" "





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 35

Jacob Hobbs	his Jacob	February 21, 1768.
Richard Potter	" Lydia	March 6,
Artholomew Dwinell	" Huldah	" 27,
Baptized in Salem, in ye Chh y <sup>t</sup> belonged to ye Rev <sup>d</sup> m <sup>r</sup> Huntington lately deceased :		
Benj <sup>m</sup> Peal	his Hannah and	April 17,
Edmund Bickford	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	" "
Solomon Gould	" Mehetabel	May 8,
Tho <sup>s</sup> Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Israel	" 15,
Nathaniel Thomas	" Esther	" 22,
Thomas Cummings	" Thomas	" 29,
Thomas Perkins	" Zacheus	June 19,
John Baker Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Thomas	" "
John Balch Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sarah	" "
Cap <sup>t</sup> W <sup>m</sup> Peabody	" Molly	July 17,
baptized at Middleton.		
Eliezer Lake Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Elizabeth	" 31,
Jacob Towne	" Jacob	" "
baptized by m <sup>r</sup> Holyoke (above two)		
Joseph Hood	his Sarah	August 14,
John Lampson Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Lois	" 28,
John May	" Elizabeth	" "
Asa Smith	" Stephen	" "
Richard Tenney	" Richard	September 11,
baptized at Rowley 2 <sup>d</sup> Parrish.		
m <sup>r</sup> Chanler baptized in Topsfield		
John Hood	his Esther	" "
Thomas Moore	" Josiah	" 18,
Thomas Emerson	" Thomas	" "
Thomas Howlett	" Allice	October 16,
baptized at Boxford first Parrish.		
Richard Cree	his Joshua	December 4,
by m <sup>r</sup> Leslie.		
Jacob Gould	" Sarah	" 18,
Philip Thomas	" Dudley	" 25,
Joseph Gould	" Sarah	February 5, 1769.
Thomas Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Thomas	March 5,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Perkins	" Dudley	" 12,
Dan <sup>l</sup> Reddington	" John	" "
Abraham Hobbs Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Salome	" "
Pelatiah Cummings	" Abigail	" 19,
Francis Towne	" Sarah	" 26,
John Dwinell of adult age		April 9,



# 36 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Joseph Perkins	his Jabesh	April	9, 1769.
Samuel Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Allen	May	7,
Isaac Hobbs	" Priscilla	"	28,
Samuel Bradstreet	" Elijah	June	4,
Nathan Hood Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Thomas	} twins	" "
" "	" Amos		
David Balch Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Joshua	"	11,
baptized by m <sup>r</sup> Holyoake.			
Deacon John Patch	his Joseph	"	18,
John Brown	" Martha	"	"
Edward Lampson	" Daniel	"	"
George Adams	" Hannah	"	"
David Thompson	" Jacob	"	"
Ezra Knowlton	" Ezra	"	"
Andrew Dodge	" Sarah	"	"
baptized at Ipswich Hamlett (above seven)			
Benjamin Bayley	his Billy	"	25,
Samuel Cree	" Samuel	"	"
Moses Perkins	" Daniel	July	16,
Aaron Estey Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Hannah	August	6,
baptized by m <sup>r</sup> Lesslie.			
Nathana <sup>l</sup> Fiske	" John	"	20,
Daniel Averell	" Solomon	"	27,
Bartholomew Dwinell	" Lydia	September	10,
John Clough	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	October	1,
" "	" Eunice	"	"
Isaac Averell	" Moses	"	"
Joseph Hood	" Joseph	November	28,
Thomas Moor	" Josiah	December	10,
John Peabody	" Ebenezer	"	17,
John Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Nabby	"	31,
Jacob Kimball	" Lydia	January	28, 1770.
baptized by m <sup>r</sup> Holyoke.			
Thomas Perkins	his Renben	February	25,
Daniel Hood	" Daniel	"	"
John Batcheller Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Joseph	March	18,
Asa Smith	" Asa	"	25,
Benjamin Kimball	" Abraham	April	8,
Thomas Cummings	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	June	24,
Henry Bradstreet	" Henry	July	15,
Elisha Perkins	" Elisha	"	22,
Archelans Rea	" Anna	August	19,
Isaac Hobbs	" Isaac	"	"





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 37

Robert Balch	his Hannah	August	19, 1770.
Stephen Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Richard	September	9,
Jacob Dwinell	" Eunice	"	23,
baptized at Boxford first Parish.			
Abraham How Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Abraham	October	28,
baptized at Line Brook.			
Mr Lesslie baptized at Topsfield			
Jacob Gould	his Kezia	"	"
John Baker Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Ebenezer	} twins	December 23,
" " "	" Emerson		
Thomas Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Ezra	"	"
Joseph Perkins	" Hannah	March	17, 1771.
Daniel Reddington	" Adam	"	"
Jacob Dwinell Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Israel	"	"
Aquila Wilkins	" Edna	April	7,
Abner Wilkins	" Eunice	"	"
baptized at Middleton (above two)			
John Peabody	his Molly	May	12,
Moses Perkins	" Anna	June	2,
Oliver Towne of adult age		"	9,
Jedidiah Peabody	his Mary	July	21,
baptized at Boxford.			
Thomas Emerson	" John	"	28,
Thomas Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Peggy	August	11,
Benjamin Bixby Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sarah	"	25,
Henry Bradstreet	" Nathan <sup>l</sup>	October	6,
Pelatiah Cummings	" Abigail	"	13,
baptized by m <sup>r</sup> Holyoake.			
Joseph Gould	his Abigail	"	27,
Bartholomew Dwinell	" Mical	November	17,
Amos Perkins	" Sarah	"	"
baptized by m <sup>r</sup> Adams (above two)			
Samuel Clarke	" Anna	Decemb <sup>r</sup>	1,
Stephen Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Enos	"	15,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Bradstreet	" John	"	22,
Cornelius Balch	" Nabby	"	"
Phillip Thomas	" Eunice	February	2, 1772.
Sam <sup>l</sup> Perkins	" Molly	"	16,
Daniel Hood	" Abner	"	23,
Robert Balch	" Robert	"	"
Joseph Hood	" Dorcas	"	"
Nathan <sup>l</sup> Fiske	" Lydia	March	1,
Asahel Smith	" Jesse	"	8,



# 38 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Asahel Smith	his Priscilla	March	8, 1772
" "	" Joseph	"	"
Oliver Perkins	" Oliver	"	"
Joseph Andrews	" Ephraim	April	12,
Benj <sup>m</sup> Kimball	" Hannah	"	"
Abraham Hobbs Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Abraham	April	19,
Jacob Kimball	" David	"	26, 1771.
Isaac Hobbs	" Priscilla	"	"
Isaac Averell	" Phebe	May	3,
John Curtice	" Sarah	"	10,
baptized at Boxford, 1 <sup>st</sup> Parrish.			
Isaac Dempsey	his Frances	"	17,
baptized at Danvers.			
Asa Smith	" Molly	"	24,
John Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Becka	"	31,
Molly, wife of Samuel	Page, & also baptized		
their Child, Sam <sup>l</sup>		June	28,
Thomas Moor	" Sarah	July	5,
John Balch Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mehetabel	} twins	"
" "	" Martha		
Stephen Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Nabby	"	12,
Dan <sup>l</sup> Clarke	" Elijah	August	28,
y <sup>e</sup> ordinance administered at s <sup>d</sup> Clarke's			
House y <sup>e</sup> Child being dangerously ill.			
Solomon Gould	his Martha	September	13,
Joseph Perkins	" Elisha	October	11,
Joseph Browne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Molly	"	"
Jacob Dwinell Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Anna	"	18,
Oliver Perkins	" Lucy	November	8,
John Batcheller	" Anna	"	15,
Abel Perkins	" Jacob	"	"
Richerd Foster	" Dorcas	Decembr	6,
baptized at Boxford 1 <sup>st</sup> Parrish.			
John Peabody	his Lucy	January	17, 1773.
Thomas Gould	" Mercy	"	"
Henry Bradstreet	" Daniel	February	14,
Isaac Dempsey	" Hannah	March	14,
baptized at Danvers.			
Solomon Dodge Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Amos	April	11,
John Lampson Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Eunice	"	18,
John Dwinell	" Esther	"	25,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Cree	" Moses	} twins	May 9,
" "	" Molly		





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 39

Pelatiah Cummings	his Oliver	June	6, 1772.
Thomas Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Thomas	"	13,
by m <sup>r</sup> Lesslie.			
Stephen Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Molly	"	27,
David Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Ebenezer	"	"
Moses Perkins	" Sarah	July	11,
A Negro servant Child Peter belonging to Lieut			
John Baker Jun <sup>r</sup>		"	"
Isaac Hobbs	his Elisabeth	August	8, 1773.
Joseph Gould	" Joseph	"	29,
Sam <sup>l</sup> Bradstreet	" Moses	"	"
Sam <sup>l</sup> Fisk	" Sam <sup>l</sup>	"	"
Anna Towne of adult age			
Dorcas Towne of adult age		October	10,
Benjamin Kimball	his Mehetabel	"	"
Robert Balch	" Solomon	"	"
Widow Sarah Fiske	her Sarah	"	24,
Elnathan Hubbard	his Mehetabel	November	7,
Richard Potter	" Joseph	"	14,
Stephen Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Aaron	"	"
Nehemiah Towne	" Nehemiah	"	"
John Rea	" Ruth	January	2, 1774.
John Perkins 3 <sup>d</sup>	" Mehetabel	"	28,
y <sup>e</sup> ordinance administered at s <sup>d</sup> Perkins			
House, y <sup>e</sup> Child being dangerously ill.			
Joseph Hood	his Huldah	March	13,
Nehemiah Towne	" Ichabod	"	20,
Israel Clark Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Israel	May	15,
" "	" Anna	"	"
" "	" Sarah	"	"
Widow Sarah Towne	her Oliver	"	"
John Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Betty	"	"
Tho <sup>s</sup> Cummings	" Daniel	"	"
Cornelius Balch	" Richard	"	"
Asa Smith	" Hannah	"	22,
baptized by m <sup>r</sup> Nathan <sup>l</sup> Porter.			
Daniel Clarke	his Daniel	"	29,

July the 11<sup>th</sup> 1774, The Rev<sup>nd</sup> Mr John Emerson De-  
parted this Life Aged 67 years, five months, and four  
days. He was Ordained November 27<sup>th</sup> 1728.



# 40 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Daniel Averill	his Mehetible	August	21, 1774.
Abraham Hobbs Jr.	his Lydia	"	"
Nath <sup>l</sup> Fisk	" Benjamin	"	"
baptized by Mr Smith of Middletown.			
Samuel Comings	His Sam <sup>l</sup>	October	16,
By Mr Stone of Reding.			
Joseph perkins	his Ely	November	6.
by Mr Swain.			
Jacob Gould	" Huldah	March	5, 1775.
Jacob Kimball	" Samuel	"	"
Dan <sup>l</sup> Porter	" Nat <sup>l</sup>	"	"
Dan <sup>l</sup> Porter	" David	"	"
Isaac Hobbs	" Munson	"	"
Stephen Perkins Jnr	" Prissa	"	"
Thomas Gould	" Phebe	"	"
Baptized by m <sup>r</sup> Daniel Emerson of Hollis.			
Tho <sup>s</sup> Mower	his Olive		
Stephen Towne Jr.	" Joseph		
John Batchellor	" Jacob		
Henry Bradstreet	" Bille		
Robert Balch	" Sarah		
Solomon Doge	" Solomon		
Moses Perkins, son of Oliver Perkins was			
Baptised		[Jan <sup>y</sup>	14, 1776. ?]
Joseph Emerson, son of Thomas Emerson was			
Baptised		Jan <sup>y</sup>	14, 1776.
Betty Cummings, Daughter of Palatiah Cum-			
mings was Baptised		"	"
Peggy Furner, Daughter of M <sup>r</sup> ——— Furner			
was Baptised		"	"
Sarah Kimball, Daughter of Benj <sup>m</sup> Kimball was			
Baptised		"	"
Joseph Towne	his Lydia	[March	3, 1776.]
Jacob Dwinell Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Mehetable	[March	3, 1776.]
Baptised By Mr Manassah Cuttlar of Ipswich			
Hamblet.			
John Dwinell	his John	March	3, 1776.
David Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	" Sarah	"	"
John Perkins 3 <sup>d</sup>	" Mehetable	"	"
By Mr Cuttlar.			
Asa Smith	" Manassah	May	5,
By Mr Frisbe of Ipswich.			
Stephen Foster jun <sup>r</sup>	his Nabby	July	7,
Samuel Fisk	" Ezra	"	"
By Mr Nathaniel Porter.			





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 41

Thomas Perkins, jun <sup>r</sup>	his Samuel	September 15, 1776.
John Balch	" John	" "
Samuel Cree	" Joseph	" "
By Mr George Laslee of Lime Brook.		
Daniel Clark	his Daniel	December 1,
I [s]aac Hobbs	" Samiel	" "
By Mr Levi Frisbe of Ipswich.		
Thomas Cummings	his John Bordman	May 4 <sup>th</sup> , 1777.
John Dwinel	" Mahetabell	" "
Daniel Porter	" Sarah	" "
By the Rev <sup>nd</sup> Mr Dane of Ipswich.		
Nathaniel Fiske	his Moses	August 24,
Joseph Hood	" Bettey	" "
By the rev <sup>d</sup> Mr Lesslie.		
Jacob Kimball	his Benjamin	February 9, 1778.
by the rev <sup>nd</sup> Mr Spring of Newbury.		
Andrew, son of Stephen Towne, Jun <sup>r</sup>		April 12,
Ruth, Phebe, and William		" "
Children of William Estie.		
Azariah, son of Nathaniel Averel Jun <sup>r</sup>		" "
Jessee, Son of John Perkins of Boxford		" "
Betty Daighter of Palatiah Cummings		" "
Hannah Daighter of Abraham Hobbs Jun <sup>r</sup>		" "
Mary Daighter of David Towne J <sup>r</sup>		" "
Susanna Daighter of Isaac Hobbs		" "
William Son of Oliver Perkins		" "
Lucy Davgter of Daniel Hood		" "
All Baptized in one day by the rev <sup>nd</sup> m <sup>r</sup> Holyoke of Boxford.		
Ebenezer Peabody, Son of John Peabody		November 8 <sup>th</sup>
Baptized by Mr Manassa Cutler of Ipswich Hamblet.		
Daniel Clarke	his Elijah	April 25 <sup>th</sup> , 1779.
Samuel Perkins	" Ezra	" "
John Dwinel	" Esther	" "
Benjamin Hobbs	" Daniel	" "
Baptized by the Rev <sup>nd</sup> Mr Wadsworth of Danverse.		
Philip Thomas	his Philip	July 27 <sup>th</sup>
Ebenezer Goodhue	" Ebenezer	" "
Baptized by y <sup>e</sup> Rev <sup>nd</sup> Mr Wadsworth of Danvers.		
Oliver Perkins	his Lois	July 4 <sup>th</sup>



# 42 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

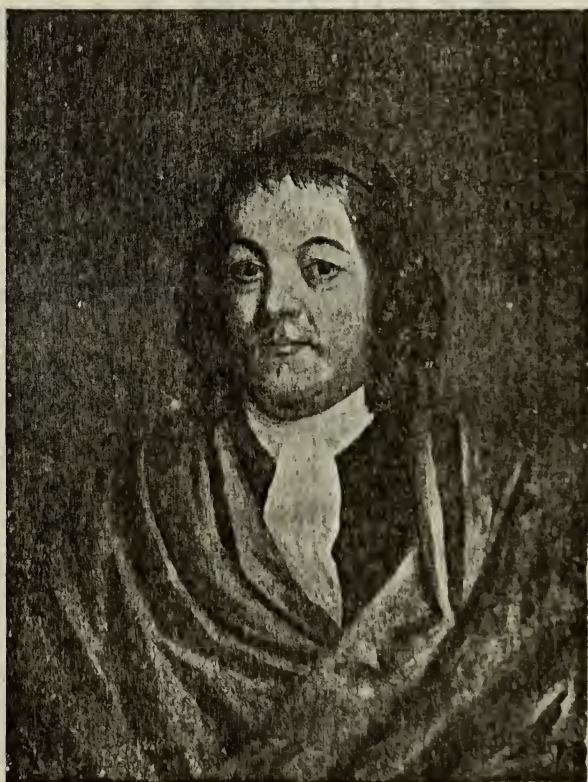
Eliezer Lake Jun <sup>r</sup>	his Eliezer	July	4 <sup>th</sup> 1779.
By the Rev <sup>d</sup> Mr Dana of Ipswich.			
John Batcheller	his Jacob	August	24 <sup>th</sup>
by the Rev <sup>d</sup> Mr Lesslie of Lyne Brook Parrish in Ipswich.			
Isaac Hobbs	his Humphry	September	5 <sup>th</sup>
David Hobbs	" Luey	"	"
By ye Rev <sup>d</sup> Mr Adams of Haverhill.			
William Estie	his Debbe	November	7 <sup>th</sup>
by the Rev <sup>d</sup> Mr Cutler of Ipswich Hamblet.			

Rev. Daniel Breck, the fifth pastor of the Church in Topsfield, was ordained to the Charge, the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, 1779.

NOTE. This includes all the baptisms to the time of the ordination of Rev. Mr. Breck.—*Editor.*







SIMON BRADSTREET, COLONIAL GOVERNOR.



THE  
HISTORICAL  
COLLECTIONS  
OF THE  
TOPSFIELD  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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VOL II.

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1896.

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TOPSFIELD, MASS.:  
Published by the Society,  
1896.





## Secretary's Report.

Another annual meeting must remind this society that the dignity of years is beginning to surround its work, that while our chosen field is the collection and preservation of the history and antiquities of our town, all the while as a society, we are creating history and performing a duty which will not be forgotten when the story of Topsfield is related to future generations.

The relics and curiosities we collect today illustrating the life and customs of former years, with each passing cycle obtain a new significance and greater historical value. Today's object of small concern becomes tomorrow a thing of moment or curious interest. But of greater and more lasting value is the work being performed by the society in placing upon the printed page a chronicle of historical and biographical matter relating to Topsfield. Data perchance found only in the fleeting memories of those now living, or compiled from fragments widely scattered.

The past year has seen the beginning of an important work; the reproduction in type of the records of the town. Copies from the clerk's book of original records from the earliest times until the year 1684 have been carefully and exactly made and are reproduced in the first 52 pages of the volume of Historical Collections for the past year.

The work should be continued in the coming volumes, and carried forward as extensively and elaborately as the funds of the society will

allow. It is not unreasonable to ask that the town should in a degree share in this expense. Rowley, Manchester and Beverly have printed their early records, and several other towns in the county have been to great expense in having duly certified copies made of valuable records rapidly becoming illegible through the ravages of time.

If not at the coming town meeting, perhaps at some future time the matter should be brought before the town for its consideration.

The past year has shown a very successful growth. The membership has grown from a total of 94 at our last annual meeting to 139 at the present time. A large proportion of this increase comes from those living without the bounds of the town. Former residents or historians interested in obtaining our volume of historical collections in exchange for the membership dues.

This method of enlarging our rolls should be encouraged during the coming year. The annual fee of fifty cents is small and not to be compared with the value of the collections.

At the regular meeting in February, Rev. O. S. Butler of Georgetown lectured before the society on the History of the American Flag. With that single exception, members of the society have prepared the historical papers which have been read at each regular meeting, several of them appearing in the volume of collections.

On the 18th of June a highly



## VIII

successful field meeting was held at membership for non payment of dues. "The Colleges," the Danvers Historical Society, and the History Class connected with the Essex Institute being represented on invitation from this society.

Over 150 persons were present and heard with interest an historical sketch on the locality read by Miss Gertrude Bradstreet, and speeches by Pres. Allen and Dr. A. P. Putnam and other members of the Danvers Historical Society.

We have lost three members by death, Mrs. Louisa Leach, Capt. R. B. Pray and Amos T. Fiske, while two others have been dropped from

Beyond a suggestion that an effort be made to suitably encase our growing collection of relics and curiosities now at the Town Hall, your secretary has nothing to recommend save a spirit of enthusiasm on matters historical. Enlarge the membership and speak a good word for the society when inspecting a relic of the town's life, remembering that many an attic in town still conceals treasures that should find their way into our collections.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. FRIS. DOW,  
Secretary.





## IX

## Treasurer's Report

For the year ending Dec. 31, 1896.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
Bal. on hand, Jan. 1. 1896	\$ .30	Printing Collections	\$35.25
Annual dues	57.50	Printing Baptismal Records	8.00
Historical Collections, sold	7.00	Printing Postals and Tickets	4.00
Cloth bindings	3.00	Binding Collections	9.25
Donation, Members of Society	23.75	Postal cards and postage	4.93
Donation, George L. Gould	2.50	Use of electrotpe	1.00
		Field meeting, carriages, etc.	4.81
		Expressing, stationery, etc.	1.47
		Lecturer's expenses	.28
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$94.50		\$68.99
		Balance on hand	\$25.06

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. FRs. DOW,

Treasurer.







## Donations for the year ending Dec. 31, 1896.

	Library.	Cabinet.
Averill, Sidney W.	1	14
Bomer, Mrs. Caroline E., Ipswich	4	
Dodge, John H.		2
Dodge, Wm. Ladd	1	
Dow, Eugene M.		1
Dwinell, Esther		1
Fitts, Rev. James H., Newfields, N. H.	12	
Foster, Edwin O., Salem	1	
Gould, Andrew	1	
Gould, Esther	1	
Harriman, H. N., Georgetown	3	
Haven, Mrs. Theodore W., Glasco, N. Y.		2
Halker, William, Newburyport		1
Kneeland, C. A. S.		1
Lake, Otto E.		1
Merriam, Henry G.	1	
Nichols, Mrs. Mary L.	3	
Peabody, Helen. St. Louis, Mo.	1	1
Perkins, William	1	
Pray, Mrs. Caroline E.	5	1
Stevens, Albert W.		77
Smith, Mrs. Nath., Boxford	1	
Smith, Mrs. Calvin, Boxford		1
Wells, Catherine		1
	<hr/> 36	<hr/> 104

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. G. WARREN TOWNE,

Curator.



## Necrology for 1896.

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LOUISA (MORGAN) LEACH was born at Manchester, Mass., Nov. 23, 1816, and died at Topsfield, Feb. 6, 1896. She was the daughter of Isaac and Salome (Brown) Morgan. She was united in marriage with Thomas K. Leach of Wenham May 2, 1836. Five children were born to them; Mary Ann, who married Lafayette Batchelder and lives in Wenham; Sarah Kimball, who married Isaac M. Woodbury and lives in Topsfield; Martha, who married Moses N. Boardman and lives in Georgetown; Charles Healey, who married Mary A. Wilkins and lives at the homestead and Martha Louisa who died when a child.

Mrs. Leach was a charter member of the Society and the author of the article on the trial of Elizabeth P. Bradstreet printed in Vol. I. of the Historical Collections. She became a member of the Congregational church in Topsfield in 1839, and ever maintained an exemplary christian character. Of retentive memory, her reminiscences of early life were of great interest and a journal of events kept by her for many years will be of much value to the historian.

---

RUEL BENTON PRAY was born at Salem, Mass., April 18, 1838, and died at Topsfield, Oct. 6, 1896. He was the son of Ruel and Mehitable (Kender) Pray. Receiving his education in the public schools of Salem, while yet in his teens he enlisted in the merchant marine and served as sailor, mate and captain. He made a voyage around the world with Capt. Lewis F. Miller of Salem. He also served on the U. S. S. Cumberland previous to the Civil war, being stationed off the west coast of Africa. The first man to enlist from Danvers he served until the close of the war; was provost marshal at Baltimore, Sept. 1861; 1st lieutenant, Dec. 19, 1861; was disabled in Aug. 1863 and resigned. March 4, 1864 he was mustered into the Navy, serving as master's mate or ensign on U. S. S. Savannah, Algonquin, Young America, Wilderness, Chicopee, Queen and Sarsacuss.

After the war he engaged in journalism, editing newspapers in Salem and Marlboro. He was one of the projectors of THE TOPSFIELD TOWNSMAN.

For several years he was engaged in the cigar business at Danvers. He was prominent in G. A. R. circles and much interested in the public school system.

October 28, 1860, he married Caroline E. daughter of William and Sally Gallup of Topsfield. Two children were born to them, Charlotte Elizabeth and William G.

Mr. Pray was a charter member of the Topsfield Historical Society.





## XII

AMOS TENNY FISKE was yet a young man when he died Nov. 19, 1896. He was a charter member of the society. The son of John and Adeliza Minerva (Pike) Fiske he was born in Topsfield, June 16 1870.

For several years he was in the employ of Balch Bros. subscription book publishers but in the spring of 1895 he embarked in the retail shoe business in Topsfield. Until his death he was active in church work. A member of the Congregational society and president of the Y. P. C. E. society connected with the church.

He was never married.

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THE  
EARLY RECORDS  
OF THE  
TOWN OF TOPSFIELD,  
MASSACHUSETTS.

---

TRANSCRIBED BY GEO. FRIS. DOW.

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The first book of original clerk's records now in existence, begins with the year 1675. That a record was kept during the previous twenty-five years beginning with 1650, the date of incorporation, is proven by the following extracts from the clerk's records:—

"At a lawfull meeting 7 march 75-76 it is ordered that the select men shall see that the olde book the towne book shall be transcribed into the new book and that the land on the south sid the Reuer that was layed out by denisians to the seuerall inhabetants the select men shall see that ther lots be Recorded according as tha ware lade out

shall be Trancrined in to ye new Towne Booke all that is needfull to be don & that is not all redy don.

Voated.

Lliut pebody & John Gould are Chosen to Trancribe all ye old Towne booke in to ye newe Towne booke as is Needfull to be don

Voated."

These earlier records were transcribed from time to time into "the new book," and are found incorporated in the records of the current years of 1675 to 1683. In the following copy I have arranged these fragments in chronological order, greatly regretting their incompleteness.

At a lawfull Towne meting the 7th of march 1681 or 82. The Towne has Voated that ye old Towne Booke

GEO. FRs. Dow.





ACTS  
OF THE  
GENERAL COURT CONCERNING TOPSFIELD.

---

"Whereas the inhabitants of Salem have agreed to plant a village neare the ryver w'ch runs to Ipswich, it is ordered, that all the land neare their bounds, between Salem & the said ryver, not belonging to any other towne or person, by any former grant, shall belong to the said village."

Mass. Colony Records.  
5 Nov. 1639.

---

"Whereas, at the Co't houlden at Boston the 4th, 7th mo. 1639. there was certaine land lying neare Ipswich Ryver granted for a village, eith'r to some of the inhabitants of Salem, or to some of the inhabitants of Ipswich, who have farmes near unto the said land, to bee enioved by those who first settled a village there; they both propounding for it togeth'r; howsoev'r the ord'r mentioneth only Salem inhabitants, & forasmuch as the said inhabitants of Ipswich have for neare this two years procured & maintained one to dispencc the word of God unto them, w'ch they intend to continue, it is therefore ordered & granted, that Mr. Jno. Eddecott & the said inhabitants of Ipswich, viz., Mr. Bradstreete, Mr. Symonds, Mr. Whittingham, Mr. William Paine, Mr. Robert Paine, & such oth'r of Ipswich or Salem as they shall associate to themselves, shall have lib'rty to settle a village neare the said ryver of Ipswich, as it may bee most convenient for them, to w'ch the foresaid land shall belong, viz., all that w'ch lieth neare the said ryver (not formerly granted to any towne or person), provided that any of the inhabitants of Salem, who have farmes neare unto the said land now granted, shall have liberty for one yeare next coming to joine with the said village."

Mass. Colony Records.  
17 Oct. 1643.

"Upon Zacheus Goulds petition, it is conceived to be for the gen'rall good, & very convenient, there should be a village about that farme, & that the towne of Ipswich should further them therein."

Mass. Colony Records,  
29 May 1644.

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"Forasmuch as ys Co't hath form'rly granted yt yr should be a village upon Ipswich Ryver, at or neare a place called ye New Medowes, & forasmuch as c'rtaine of ye inhabitants of Ipswich who have farmes improved neer yrunto, & do desire yt a minist'r might be settled yr to dispencc ye word to ye present inhabitants & such oth'rs as shall plant ymselves at ye said village, whom yet notwithstanding they are no waves able in any comfortable mann'r to maintaine a minister, & to defray oth'r necessary charges of ye place, if w'thall they should be lyable to all other rates & publike charges of ye towne of Ipswich.

This Co't doth therefore hereby order, yt either ye whole towne of Ipswich shall equally contribute (w'th such oth'r inhabitants as have lands in or neere ye said village) to ye maintenance of a minister, & all other publike charges incident to such a village, or else ye foresaid inhabitants, yt have lands neer ye said village, & shall contribute to ye maintenance of a minister yr, & oth'r necessary charges, shalbe freed from all manner of rates, charges, or contributions to ye towne of Ipswich for yr land or stock in or belonging to ye said village."

Mass. Colony Records,  
1 Oct. 1645.

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"The Co't haveing consid'ed of ye great expence of time occasioned by severall persons bringing their suites to ye Co't to be tryed here, thinke it meete that Captain Smyth should pay twenty



nobles for defraying ye charge of ys Co'rt, & ye towne of Ipswich & ye petition'rs of ye Newe Medows should pay 5t for ye time their cause tooke up in ys Co'rt, fifty shill'gs ye towne, & fifty shill'gs ye petition'rs."

Mass. Colony Records,  
18 Oct. 1645.

"The village at the newe medowes at Ipswich is named Toppesfeild."

Mass. Colony Records,  
18 Oct. 1648.

"Vppon the request of those whom it most concernes, the village at the New Meddowes at Ipswich, shalbe henceforth called Toppesfeild."

Mass. Colony Records,  
27 Oct. 1648.

Petition to the General Court,

"Wee Humbly Intreate this honored Court that you wold bee pleased to bestowe a name Vpon oure Village at the new medowes at Ipswich Which wee suppose may bee an Incoragment to others to Come to liue amongst vs: and alsoe a meanes to further a ministry amongst vs wee thinke hempstedd wile bee a fit name if the Court please to gratide vs herewith.

Will Payne,  
Brian Pendleton,  
Zacheous Gould."

Mass. Archives, 112. 9.

(The deputies granted this petition, but the magistrates set the action aside and thought fit "it should be called Toppesfeild." To this decision the lower court then agreed. G. F. D.)

"In answer to the petition of the inhabitants of Top-feild it is ordered by this Court that from henceforth they shalbe a towne & have power within themselves to order all civill affayres, as other townes haue."

Mass. Colony Records,  
16 Oct. 1630.

"In ans'r to the request of Zacheus Gould and William Howard, in the b. halfe of Top-feild, the Court doth graunt that Topsfeild shall from henceforth be a towne, and haue power within themselus to order all civill affajres, as other townes haue."

Mass. Colony Records,  
18 Oct. 1630.







## TOPSFIELD TOWN RECORDS.

March 25, 1659.

Wee hose names are Vnder Wri-  
ghen being Chosen and Impowred by  
the Inhabitanes of Salam and Tops-  
feild to runc the six miles Extent  
and also the deuisionall Line betwene  
the two Townes haue thus agreed  
and determined, namly that wee  
haue runc the six miles Extent Vpon  
the nore west and by nore Which  
ends in the edg of a Swamp of John  
putnams Comonly Called the great  
ashing Swamp next Vnto a hill Com-  
only Called by the name of Walnut  
tree hill neere Vnto perie Wiggwamb  
and from thence haue thus fare  
agreed Vpon the deuisionall Line  
Which runs Souwest Westerly to the  
riverside Commonly Called by the  
name of Ipswich riuer Where Wee  
marked trees by a rock towards the  
Est and a neck of Land Commonly  
Called Crunwels neck westwardly of  
the said trees marked and from  
thence souwest one mile and a quar-  
ter and so on according to the rule  
that Mr. Joseph Gardner runc the  
aforesaid deuisionall Line, and from  
the six miles extent toward the nor  
est esterly as it is bounded and  
marked one mile and a quarter end-  
ing at a swamp by a hill Called Smith  
hill and from thence toward the est  
norest ending Vpon a hill neer Vnto  
Whenham Casway, and so toward  
the est and by nore one hundreds  
rods ending at wenham meadow side.  
Thomas Putname.

Abraham Redington,  
Nathanill Putname. John Redington.

Joseph Buchenson, John Wildes.  
William Euans.

at A Lawfull Towne meeting the 3  
day of ye 12 in 1659 it is ordred and  
agreed Vpon that Mr. Perkins shall  
haue fifteene acres of Land meadow  
and Vpland Lying on the south side  
of a hill Commonly Caled bare hill the  
Vpland of the said Land is by way  
of exchang with ye Towne for a per-  
cell of Vpland Lying betwene Mr.  
Perkins field and Mr. Baker house  
and also a percell of swampie Land  
aJoyneing to Mr. Perkins field at  
home Voated.

At a lawfull Towne meeting ye 14  
of march 1661. Whereas Zachaeas  
Gould at a Towne meeting in febr-  
ary 23 1658 ded then joyne himselfe  
with his estate to ye Towne of Tops-  
field for seven yeers or terme of his  
life or Vntill a minister be settled in  
Rowley Village doth now at a Towne  
meeting giue in his feirme of three  
hundred acres which he bought of  
Mr. William Paine that he now lius  
Vppon to Topsfield the said Zachaeas  
Gould by these presants doth for  
himselfe his Execetutors Administra-  
tors or asignes giue in the aforesaid  
farme into the sad Towne for euer  
with all the priueledges and apurtin-  
ances thereunto belonging.  
Winnes my hand, Zachaeas Gould.

Voated.

At a lawfull Towne meeting the 14  
of the 10 in 1661 The inhabitants of  
ye Towne hath made choyce of En-  
signe Howlet frances pabodye and



John Redington, they are chosen for selectmen for the year folowing to order the prudentiall affaires of the towne and to settle the bounds of the towne betwene Salem and Topsfield and also to settle the bounds between the Comen (partage?) and Vs and also where they shall see any wrong done to the towne by any they haue power to rectifie by sute or otherwise  
Voted.

It is further ordered and herby they are impowred to lay out five hundred acre[s] of land on the other side of the riuer to remaine common to perpetuity for the Vse of the inhabitants provided none of it be medowland  
Voted.

It is further ordered that the aforesaid five hundred acres of land is stated to the inhabitants of the Town excepting Ensigne Howlet as one to share in the said common notwithstanding any former order  
Voted

It is also ordered and the said selectmen are impowred to deuide the other parte of the common both medow and Vpland on the other side of the riuer into three equall denisions  
Voted.

The names of the commoners that shall share in it.

Mr. Bradstreet	Tho' Perkins
Mr. Perkins	Tho' Browning
Zacheas Gould	Jacob Towne
Mr. Baker	Isace Estey
Tho' Dorman	Willi' Towne
Frances Pebody	Edmond Towne
Willi' Euens	Matthew Standly
Daniell Clark	Anthony Carell
Isace Cummings senr	Frances Bates
Isac Cumings jur	John How

Ensigne Howlet	Edmond Bredges
Willi' Smith	Willi' Nicholse
Mr. Endicoat	Vseltone lot
John Wiles	Lumpkins farme
John Redington	Rob't Andrews land
	Voted.

At a meeting of the selectmen march, 10, 166 $\frac{1}{2}$  Whereas Zacheas Gould at a Towne meeting in february ye 23. day 1658. ded then Joyne himselve with his estat to ye Towne of Topsfield for seuen years or terme of his life or vtell a minister be settled in Rowley Vilag doth now being at a meeting of the selectmen of Topsfield giue his Feirme of threehundred acres wh'ch he liue vpon into Topsfield foreuer with all the priueledges & apurtenances thereunto belonging—Zacheas Gould.

At a lawfull Towne meeting ye 14 of march 1661

Whereas Zacheas Gould at a Towne meeting in february 23. 1658 ded then joyne himselve with his estate to ye Towne of Topsfield for seuen years or terme of his life or Vntell a minister be settled in Rowley Village doth now at a Towne meeting giue in his feirme of threehundred acres which he bought of Mr. William Paine that he now lmes Vpon to Topsfield. the said Zacheas Gould by these presants doth for himselve his Excetutors Administrators or assignes giue in the aforesaid farme into the said Towne for euer with all the priueledges and apurtenances thereunto belonging—witnes my hand  
Voted.

Zacheas Gould.

At a Lawfull Towne meeting the 15 of January 1663 the Inhabitance





of Topsfield hath granted ther right in a percell of Common Land by way of exchange for Land of John How aquinalant to the said percell of Land to Lye Conuenant to the Common for Common, and the said Inhabittance hath Chosen ffrainces pebody John Wilds and Thomas perkins to Lay out the a boue sd Land Voated.

The Inhabittance hath a greed With Thomas Baker to Exchange two acres of Land neere to the meeting house for Land aqueuelante there vnto neere the sd Thomas Baker house, the Towne hath Chosen ffrainces pebody and Daniell Houey and the sd Thomas Baker hath Chosen John Gould and John Wilds to Lay out the aboue said p'rsells of Land—Voated.

At a lawfull Towne meeting the 7. march 1664. It is ordered that the timber of the fivehundred acres of common lands on the other side of the riuer which is to remaine common to perpetuity is to be deuided by John Wiles Willi Auereil Thomas Baker & edmond Towne or either three of them into three equall proportions as two foure & six according to that rule to be deuided

voted

It is also ordered that al the commonors of the Towne shall haue a share in the common on the other sid of the riuer with the timber which is to be deuided accordin[g] to the rule as is here expressed namely that thos which pay to the minesters rat[e] made in the year 1664; fiuty shillings & upward shal haue one of the greater shares and vnder fiuty shillings to twenty, shal

haue a midle share and vnder twenty shillings one of the least shares

voted

now these are the names of those men that ware then Rated that yeare 1664 and thar saueral soms as tha ar in that Rate and rite in this land

Zacheus and John goold	04-03-03
mr thomas baker	03-17-03
danel Clark	01-04-05
thomas darman senr	03-03-00
frances pebody	04-05-02
decon houey	01-03-03
william Eeuens	02-11-00
Isack Comings senr	00-13-03
Isack Comings iunar	01-08-00
Ensigne howlat	01-08-09
antoni Carol	00-11-01
thomas perkings	02-19-07
thomas aueril and thomas	01-14-02
hobes on nlr brodstreets land	01-03-00
John Redington	03-05-02
thomas browning	01-06-00
John wiles	01-12-10
william smith	00-13-03
Edman bridges	00-15-03
Jacob towne	01-04-05
Isack Este	00-19-06
william towne	00-04-02
and Joseph towne	01-08-05
Edman towne	01-08-09
mathew stanle	00-15-08
william nicoles	01-12-09
mr. William Perkeings	02-03-09
mr Endicoot	01-02-00
John how	00-19-00
Robart andros	00-12-00
frances bates	00-09-00

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 9 desmber 1664. It is ordred and agreed Vpon that ye Inhabittance of the Towne hath apoyented the first third day of march next and so ye first third day of march the next





yeare folowing and so from yeare to yeare to Continue Vntill such time as the Towne shall see Causes to alter it, for to Chose ofecers for the Carying on ye Townes afares and other matters of Concerment which nesesarly fales in to be don on that day  
Voated

At a Lawfull Towne meeting on ye 6 day of march 1665

Ensigne Howlett and Liut Pebody arc Chosen to Exchange some of the Townes Common Land neere to Luke Weaklins with Thomas Perkins for Land of his to make his Line straight for his Conueniance of fencing and not to damnfie the Towne  
Voated

ffrances pebody Thomas perkins and John Redington are Chosen by the Inhabitance of the Towne to Lay out fifty acres of Land for the Vse of the ministrey at Topsfield Wee accordingly haue don it Wee haue Laid out fifty acres in meadow and Vpland: where as there is sence two e[a]ers of this flafly it being meadow Lying betwene mudey sprieng and Luke Wakling giuene to Mr. Capen sence at a generall Towne meeting by a generall Voate of the Towne: and a stripe of meadow one ye norwest side of bare hill wee Layed it for eaight eacrs be it more or Less: and a Leuen eacres of Vpland one the south side of bare hill a Jodinging to the house and twenty nine eackres of Vpland Liing one ye south of mr perkins field that is by ye meeting house and a plaine Commonly Caled the bare hill plaine one ye nore west end and ye Towne Common one ye southwest side and ye Towne Common one ye east or

southeast end to mr perkins Land.

ffrancies pebody Thomas perkins and John Wilds Deputed by the Towne to Vew A percell of Land Which Edmond Bridges desiered to haue of the Towne Wee haue so don and bounded it as followeth from the Riuer About A Valey that is in the Island according as the trees are marked A tree that stands in A poynt of rockes Close by the Riuer and so from tree to tree as thay be marked ouer to the sid of the Vpland to the other sid of the swamp so wee haue marked trees all aLong as the swamp goeth as the trees are marked to the Riuer Againe at the Vpper end of the meadow next the Bridge, for and in Consideration of this Land the said Edmond Bridges is to aLowe the Towne thurty five shillings

the fist 11m 1665 Edmond Bridges

At a Lawfull Towne meeting the 19 of march 1666-7 ordred by the Inhabitance that all fences about Corne ffeilds with in ye bounds of the Towne shall be made of fne railes and thay shall be well plased and what other fence is set Vp by any shall be equielant to a fne raile fence and to bee set Vp and in good repare by ye twenty of apriell next and so to Continue from time to time Vntel such time as ye Towne see Case to alter it on penaltie of paying one shiling a day as a fine for euery day defect Isacke Estey and William Smith are Chosen to Vew the sd fences and take the fines the one halfe for the Townes vae the other halfe for themselves not withstanding any former Towne order.  
Voated



Thomas perkins ffrauncies pebody and John Gould are Chosen to Vew and a gree with Daniell Borman for a hie way betwene William Aueriell house and the mill throw his ground as they shall see most Conuenyant  
Voted

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 8 of Apriell 1667

The Towne hath granted Liberty to William Aueriell and Daniell Borman to make a dame at the mile brooke a rode and a halfe aboue the bridge to float there medow prouided it be no damige to the Towne

Voted.

ffraunces pebody John Gould and John Redington are Chosen to Vew and Lay out a hie way from the meeting house to Mr Endickat farne soficant for Carts

Voted

At a Lawfull meeting ye 29 of Apriell 1667 It is ordered that ye house and land apionted and Laid out for ye Ves of ye ministerey shall so remaine as aboue said for Euer and that this order be recorded in ye County records

Voted

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 9 of July 1667 The Inhabitanee of ye Towne hath Left to ye deseretion of the selectmen or maior part of them to Lay out a hie way from ye Common ground Which Lys on ye south sid of mile brooke ouer againts Goodman Dorman and sargt pebodys to Ensigne Howlett brooke notwithstanding any former Towne order Whatsocuer

Voted

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 31 desember 1667 The Towne hath a greed that homesocuer shall

ether fale or lope any tree great or smale within twenty pole of the meeting house shall pay to ye Townes Vse twenty shilings for euery such default

Voted

The three men namly ffrauncies pebody Thomas perkins and John Wilds which were chosen by ye Towne to Exchang a percell of Land with John How, according to our order we haue Exchanged about three acres, wee haue Layed out eaight rods Wide at one end next John How and almost nine rods at the other end, at ye end of Mr perkins Land next John ffrench bordering Vpon the Common.

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 13 day nouember. 1668. ffraunces pebody John Gould John Wilds Thomas Baker and Edmon Townes are Chosen thay or ye Maior part of them to Lay out and deuide the Common on Salam side of the Riuer all that Which is to be deuided notwithstanding any former Chouse or Towne order according to the Towne order made in the yeare 1664. Voted.

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 15 Jenewory 1668, The Inhabitanee of the Towne hath giuen Samuel Howlett an inuitation to Come in to the Towne and set Vp his trade of smithing to doe ye Townes worke

Voated.

apon Considration yt Samuel Howlett promiseth to ye Towne to Come and set Vp his trade in the Towne and doe there Worke thay haue giuen to him four eacers of Land Vpon the Common hill next to William Smith and John ffraunch Land

Voted.







Thomas perkins John ffranch & John Redington are Chosen to Lay out the a boue said fouer eacrs of Land to Samuel Howlett

Wee Whose Names are Under Wrihteen being Chosen by the Towne ye 13 of Nonember 1668 to deuiede ye Comman one Salam side of ye Riuer all that Which is to bee deuided not withstanding any former Chouch or Towne order according to the Towne order made in ye yeare 1661: and according to the Rule ye Towne apiunted in ye yeare 1664. to deuide ye Common by wee haue don et as folet in to three Deuisions as ye Towne ordered in ye yeare 1664 and as there seuerall proportions was by there Rate to ye minister in ye yeare 1664 hee that paid ftiuty shilings one of ye great shares and hee that paid vnder ftiuty to twenty one of ye midell shares and hee that paid vnder twenty shilings a singell share:

The Land Lyes in two parcell the forst part is Bounded Twowards ye West with mr Endickat Land and Twowards ye south with ffarmer porters Land and Twowards the east with Joseph Porters Land and Salam Line and Twowards ye North with ye Cowe Comman beLonging to Topseild. The seckond parcell is bounded with Mr Endickat Land Twoward ye North and Twowards ye Weast with ye Riuer Commonly Caled Ipswich Riuer and Twowards ye south with Land that Lliut Thomas Putnam Layes Clame to & Land of William Hobes and easterly with ye land of ffarmer porter & William Hobes his Land: and where wee did find parson or parsons that

were Dead or had soald them selves out of ye Towne before wee deuided ye Land we Layed ye deuision of Common Land that was ordered to bedeuiet to ye Inhobatants in ye yeare 1661 to ye Land of those that were entred in ye Towne Booke Namely Zacheus Gould was Dead wee Layed his deuision to his Land and seuerall others that ware ether Dead or eles had soald all there housing and Land in Topsfield wee Layed out noe Land to any that was gone out of ye Towne but to ye Land that they had or did Line one in Topseild when the acte was past by ye Towne in ye yeare 1661.

The Bredth of ye Lots in the yt first deuision is as folet beging at mr endickat Land

- 1 forst lot is six rod short of ye Bound tree betweene ye Cow Common & ye Lot.
- 2 Lot is twenty 6 rod brode
- 3 lot is twenty two rod brod
- 4 lot is ninteene rod brod
- 5 lot is sixteene rod brod
- 6 lot is foorteene rod brod
- 7 lot is threeteen rod brod
- 8 lot is twenele rod brod
- 9 lot is a Leunn rod & ahalf brod
- 10 lot a Leauene rod brod
- 11 lot is ten rod & ahalf brod
- 12 lot is ten rod broad
- 13 lot is nine rod & three quarters brod
- 14 lot is nine rod & fine foot brod
- 15 lot is nine rod & fine foot brod
- 16 lot is eaight road & a halfe broad
- 17 lot is eaight rod & an a quarter brod
- 18 lot is eaight road broad
- 19 lot is seueene road an three quartere broad



- 20 lot is seuene road an three quartere broad  
 21 lot is seuene rod & a halfe brod  
 22 lot is seuene rod an a halfe brod  
 23 lot is six rod an three quarters brod  
 24 lot is six rod an a quarter brod  
 25 lot is six rod and halfe a quarter brod  
 26 lot is six rod an halfe a quarter brod  
 27 lot is six rod an two foot brod  
 28 lot is six rod brod  
 29 lot is six rod wanting two ffoot  
 30 lot is fīue rod an twelle ffoot brod  
 31 lot is fīue rod an Leuene foot four enchies  
 32 lot is fīue rod an ten foot  
 33 lot is fīue rod an nine foot  
 34 lot is fīue rod an eaight foot an a halfe  
 35 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 36 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 37 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 38 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 39 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 40 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 41 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 42 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 43 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 44 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 45 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 46 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 47 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 48 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 49 lot is fīue rod an a halfe  
 the 47 lot and ye 48 lot an ye 49 lot is to haue all ye Land from y[e] 46 lot to Joseph porters Line and Salam Line to Joseph porter marked tree a Littell wayes of whele brooke at ye Norwest end of his ye sd porter farme and these three Lots namely ye: 47: 48: 49: Lot is to bee fīue rod an a halfe broad apece apou ye
- Cow Common  
 50 lot is twenty rod broad beccase ye Land shortens  
 51 lot is twenty two rod broad  
 52 lot is twenty fouer rod broad  
 53 lot is to haue all to Joseph porter Line of that deuision of Land  
 54 lot is to rune downe by ye Coue Common and but one ye medoe downe twords Deckon Thomas perkins ye bread of et is ten rod and et dos but at ye other end a gaints ye 53 lot.  
 55 lot ruing by ye sid of ye 54 lot being ten rod broad  
 56 lot ruing as ye a boue sd being ten rod broad  
 57 lot ruing as ye a boue sd lots being ten rod broad  
 58 lot is twelue rod broad  
 59 lot is fīueeteene rod broad because wee conseaue et dos shorten by Joseph porters Land and Salams Land
- There is a smale stripe of Land Lefte by ye Last Lot and Salam Line ye meing is et tis betwene ye 59 lot and Salam Line:
- The seekond deuision being that wee Cale Stickey medoe beging mr endickat flarme vp to that Land as Lliut Thomas putman Layes Clame the Lots butting apou farmer porter Land and soe ruing to ye Riuer Caled Ipswich Riuer wesword there is fīinty fue of these Lots Laid out fīue rod and a halfe broad these fīintey fīue Lots but one flarmer porter Land being at fīue rod and ahalfe broad at that end and at ye Riuer fouer rod an a halfe broad there is fouer Lots more that dos but apou William Hobes is Land and at Wil: Hobes Land thay are seuenteene rod an a halfe broad so Ruing vp to





Licut Thomas putnam Line.

Wee whos hands are vnder wrigh-  
teen do Testifie that wee haue Laid  
out ye Lots as is here in expresed

Witness our hands

Dated march 1668

John Gould  
Thomas Baker  
John wills  
francies pabody

Joseph Towns his house Voted.

It is also ordered and agreed upon  
With Ensigne Thomas Howlett that  
thay will make and maintaine a  
bridge ouer ye Brooke by Ensignes  
house in ye way as wee goe to Ips-  
wich ye one halfe to be don by the  
Towne and the other halfe by ye sd  
Ensigne Voted.

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye  
2 march 1668 or 69.

The Towne hath a greced that it  
shall be Leagall waring for Euery  
Teme or parson that is warned to  
hie way work by the seruaiers or  
there order, the seruaiers or ther  
order shall giue two dayes or two  
nights at Least waring to euerey teme  
and person thay shall warne into hie  
way worke, and farder the Towne  
hath ordred yt any teme warned as  
aboue said by ye seruaiers or there  
order, shall refuse or niglect to  
atend the Townes seruies which  
they are thus Caled Vnto Shall pay  
seuene shiling for each dayes niglect  
as afine for ye Townes Vese, and  
also the parsons so warned as aboue  
said, and shall refuse or niglect ye  
seruies thay are Caled to doe shall  
pay as afine for ye Towne Vse two  
shillings six pence a man for euerey  
day niglect the which fines the ser-  
uayers shall gather Vp with out  
parshaliety and give in thre a Counte  
to ye Towne at a Towne meeting

Voted.

The Towne hath excepected Wil-  
liam Nicklas and John Nicklas and  
William Hobes from hie Way  
worke in ye Towne upon Considra-  
tion thay Liue remoate: and upon  
Condition thay mak there one hie  
ways to Topsfeild Bridge nere to

At a Towne Meeting ye 11 of ye  
3m. 1669. Licut frainces pebody  
Ensigne John Gould Edmond  
Townes Thomas Baker & John  
Wilds being Chosen to deuide ye  
Common on ye other side of ye  
River: accordingly haue don it and  
declared ye same to ye Towne at a  
Towne meeting and is excepted by  
ye Towne Voted.

and also they haue agreed to Cast  
Lotes for it that enery one There by  
may know what is his Chare and  
Where it Lyes Voted

The Towne hath ordered yt the  
highway which Lyeth on ye south  
sid of Mr perkins his house and Lot  
ffrom William Aueriell house to ye  
Common shall be Laid downe and  
one other Way one ye north side of  
the said house and Land shall be  
Laid out and ye Towne has Chosen  
Licut frainces pebody Ensigne John  
Gould and Thomas perkins to Lay  
out ye said hieway Voted.

The Inhabitance being meet to gath-  
er to Cast Lotes ytenery one yt hatha  
share in ye Common Land may know  
what his share is and where it Lyes,  
the Lots which are Cast are in order  
as foloweth the first Lot which is  
next Mr Endickat medow and the  
Cow Common and yt euerey mans  
share whether singell dobell or





trebelle shall Ly to gather in Each	frances Bates share	19
deuision to each party, ye first	John Wilds	30
Lot sales to Zacheus Gould Land ye 2	John Redington	20
to Vsaltons Land ye 3 to William	Tho: perkins	24
Nicklas ye 4 to Jacob Townes ye 5	Tho: Browing	23
to John Redington ye 6 to Isacke	John How	10
Comings Jur ye 7 to Mr Bakers	Zacheus Gould share [h]is Land	01
Land ye 8 to Thomas Dorman ye 9	Jacob Townes	04
to John Wilds ye 10 to William	Isacke Estey	05
Smith ye 11 to Thomas Browing ye	William Townes	06
12 to Mr Endickat ye 13 to mathu	Edmond Townes	21
Stanley ye 14 to Antony Carell land	Mathu standly	18
ye 15 to Isacke Estey ye 16 to	Anthony Carell share to his Land	
frances Bates Land ye 17 to Mr	in ye Towne is	07
Bradstreet Land ye 18 to Thomas	Edmond Bridges share to his	
perkins ye 19 to Robard Androws	house and Land in ye Towne	
Land ye 20 to Llumkins Lot ye 21	is in	09
to Edmon Townes the 22 to William	Will Nicklas	22
EuenesLand ye 23 to Joseph Townes	Vseltons share to his Land in	
ye 24 to John How ye 25 to Edmond	ye Towne	11
Bridges house that he had had in	Llumkins Land	28
Topseild in the year 64 ye 26 to	Robard Androws	26
to frainces pebody ye 27 to mr per-	At a Lawfull Towne meeting 15th	
kings ye 28 to Daniell Clarke ye 29	Noumber 1669. Jacob Townes &	
to Ensigne Howlett ye 30 to Isacke	Joseph Townes are Chosen to Lay	
Comings senr and as for ye Lots of	out a highway ffrom ye Bridge ouer	
the other deuision which ye stickey	ye Riuer by William Townes of one	
medow is part of is Loted out after	pole wide to William Nicklas ffarme	
this order as falet to each party or	Which he Liue upon and also to	
each partyes Land as there seuerall	William Hobes Land	Voted.
Lots Ly 2: 3 & 4.		

Mr Bradstreet share to his Land is	Chosen to Lay out a highway from	
number 03 Mr Endickat share to his	the Bridge ouer ye riuer by William	
Land is 25	Townes of one pole Wide to William	
Mr Perkins	Nicklas farme which he Lines apone	16
Mr Baker	and also to William Hobes haue	12
Tho Dorman	accordingly don it.	15
frances pebody	At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 3	29
Will Euenes share	of Jenewary 1670. The Towne hath	27
Daniell Clarke	ordered ye Clarke to recorde the	02
Isacke Comings senr	Lotes Which are one ye other side	18
Isacke Comings Jur	of the riuer according to the derex-	14
Ensign Howlett	tions that ye Commity Chosen for	08
Will Smith	the Laying out of ye said Lots shall	17



derecte him

Voted.

Lliut ffrainces pebody Ensigne John Gould and Thomas perkins being Chosen by ye Towne to Lay out a highway through part of William Aueriell Land and through part of Daniell Borman Land to the Northward side of Mr perkins his home ffeild haue accordingly don it ye Which highway is Laid out from the Vpper End of William Aueriell orchard one rod an a halfe wide to ye afore said northward side of Mr perkins his feild and so through Daniell Borman Land one ye northward sid of Mr perkins ffeild to the former highway againe.

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 7 march 1670 or 71.

The Towne has impowred the seectmen to petition to the Court to git ye Bridge ouer ye Reiuer by old Goodman Townes to be maintained one ye County a Count.

Voted

The Towne is willing that Lliut pebody should set vp a saw mille provided it dos not doe damige to any of the Towne men in there med-  
owes

Voated

It was Voated that ye Towne should yearely Chose there Clarke for ye Towne and also there seectmen by papers

The Town has granted Liberty and impowred ye seectmen in the behalfe of ye Towne to agree with Lliut pebody about the Riges Ether by saile or rent as thay see good

Voted

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 14 noubmer 1671. The Inhabitate of Topsfeild has mainfested by a Voate that thay doe not desier that our Neaighabers of ye Vilige which dos

orderly here the Word of god amongst vs should pay or be Charged With ye maintaing of it in Topsfeild noe Longer then till it please god thay be abeli to maintaine ye word a mongst themselues and haue a minister settled amongst themselues for to despence ye word of God to them

Voted

At a Llawfull Towne meeting ye 5 march 1671 or 72.

The Towne has also Voated that ye Viligers shall haue Lliberty to set Vp a house for to shelter there horses in neere to ye meeting house Where ye seectmen and thay shall thinke fite or most Conuineat and also a house for to shelter themselues in with a fier in it duering so Longe as thay doe Contribute to ye ministerey here in Topsfeild according to what thay haue menened Vnder there hands and also the Towne has admited and aLowed of ye Viligers to haue a Voce and Coyce of a ministerey here in Topsfeild as the Towne themselues haue during the time of there Contributing to ye ministerey in Topsfeild

Voated

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 18: 1 m: 71 or 72. The Towne dos grant to Deckon Howlett Lliut pebody and Isacke Estey Joseph Towns Corpr edmond Townes and Thomas Baker all the swampe meadow that Lyeth apon ye Riuer Caled Ipswich Riuer extending from the Lower part of the Gonners meadow doune to the bridg that goeth ouer ye riuer be Low old Goodman Townes for an in Considration of fifty pounds ye Towne hath Resened of the aboue named parties this meadow here in menened Lyeth one the south side of







Ipswich riuer

According to a Towne order and as ye Towne had impowered vs at a Towne meeting ye seuenth of march 1670 or 71. Wee accordingly haue don it. Wee the selectmen haue sould to Lliut pebody the Rigies that is fenced in and ye bounds of it as ye fence now stands ye Riges Lyes one ye south side of ye brooke againts his orchard, the which hee is to aLow twenty fiae shilings for ye riges, and he has discounted with Vs ye selectmen ye twenty fiae shilings for ye Vese of ye Towne.

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 4 march 1672 or 73 It is ordred yt ye selectmen shall haue power to Lay out ye bounds where the fence shall stand by the medow side for John Honey apon ye south west side of ye brooke.

Voted.

At a Lawfull meeting of ye selectmen ye 30 Apprell 1673. It is ordred and a greed vpon that, all Swine shall be Ringed sofically from time to time from ye pobilitiation of this order till the 15 of Nouember and Enerey swine that shall bee found not Ringed from a quarter ould and Vpward shall forfe[t] six pence also it is a greed that all swine shall bee yoaked that dos damige by breakeing into Corne feild and paster throe sofical fences after noties giuene to ye owneres of such swine thay not sped[ily] yoaking them shall forfeit one shiling for enery swine and after noties giuene to ye oneres of such swine thay shall forfeit twelue pence for enery day till thay yoake them and such swi[ne] shall be kept yoaked tell Indan harnies be ended this order is to stand from

Voated

time to time tell ye Towne see Case to alter it not with standing any forinar order.

Voated.

Mickall Dunell is Chosene by ye seelectmen to Looke to ye yoaking and ringing of hoges and ye sd Doniell is to haue one halfe of ye forfite for his payenes as is expresed in ye order aboute Wrighteen the other halfe hee is to returne to ye selectmen

Voated.

At a meeting of ye seelectunen ye 14 of 11 m: 1673. John Gould & ye selectmen Came to a recking and did cleare all a Counts from ye beging of ye World to this day the selectmen gineing John Gould his Towne rate this yeare as ye date aboute make mention of and ye sd Gould dos a quite ye Towne of all detes dues and demands. and ye fifty shilings that ye Court at Ipswich did order ye sd Gould to take of the Towne so that ye seelectmen, in ye behalfe of the Towne dos Cleare John Gould of all that has bin paid to ye sd Gould by Constabell or Collecters or any that has bin apointed by ye Towne or seelectmen to pay any thing to John Gould ye selectmen being Lliut pebody Thomas perkins Thomas Baker Edmon Townes and this is or a greement as witnes our hands ye day and yeare aboue Wrighteen and Sargt Bixby dete is in Cluded that ye Towne dos owe ye sd Bixby which is fiae pounds that should be paid to ye sd Gould, the seelectmen giueing ye sd Gould power to demand of the said John Honey Constabell for ye yeare 72 the fiae pounds that was put into ye Towne rate and Committed to him to gather Vp and if ye sd Honey dos refuse to



pay it to ye sd Gould then Wee ye  
selectmen doe Ingage to giue ye sd  
Gould power to sue for it the sd  
Gould giueing the selectmen a noat  
to Sargt Bixby to take Vp there bill  
and ye sd Gould will delieur Vp  
Sargt Bixby bill to him as witnes or  
hands this 14: 11 m: 1763.

Witnes, John Gould  
John Commings Francis pebody  
John How in ye name of ye rest  
of ye selectmen.

I Thomas Baker doe binde my  
selfe to ye selectmen on a bond of  
sixty foure pounds to see the rate  
that they haue by warrant vnder ther  
hands Committed to mee to gather vp  
for mr Hubbard I doe by these  
presant in gage as is aboue sd to ye  
select men to see that et shall be  
deleuered to mr Hubbard I haueing  
ye ouer pluch of ye rate for my  
paynes as witnes my hand this 19  
day of Jenewary 1674. I the sd  
Tho: Baker doe ingage to pay to mr  
Hubbord 61 lb. [3]s and what ye  
rate dos a mount to more I ame to  
haue for my payines I doeing et by  
ye Last of July after ye date aboue  
sd.

Thomas Baker.

a Rate made ye 9 day of febewary  
in ye yeare 1674 to defray ye Townes  
detes and giuen to ye Constabell of  
Topsfeild or his deputy to gather vp  
and pay as derestion is giuen to  
them ye rate dos a mount to 28lb  
08s 03d ye which thay stand in deted  
to ye Towne tell they haue discharged  
ye rate and then thay shall be dis-  
charged

ye detes is 26lb 11s 08d  
so that ye ouer plush of ye 28lb 08s  
03d from 26lb 11s 08d and there rest

to ye Towne 01lb 16s 03d

John how. Constabel.

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 3  
march 1673 or 74.

The Towne has Left it to ye sec-  
lectmen to settell the bounds betwene  
the Townes Land and that frairme as  
was Mr Whittinggons. Voted

The propriaters haue Chosen the  
Lote Layeres or ye maior part of  
them to Record how thay Laid out ye  
Lotes one ye south side of ye riuier  
Whether to housing & Land or to ye  
parsons that did Live in the housing  
in ye year 61: with ye bredth and  
Lenth of euery Lote.

At a Lawfull Towne meeting the  
19 of agust 1674. The Towne made  
Chose of Isacke Comings senr and  
Ensigne John Gould and Lliut ffrain-  
ces pebody to bound the medow that  
old Goodman Gould sould for ye  
Towne to seuerall of our Neaibores,  
wee the flore named persons haue  
bounded ye medow in manner as fol-  
eth. Wee begane to marke trees at  
ye Clay pits there ye medow begins  
there wee marked two trees one  
Whiat oake betwene ye Claie pites  
and ye riuier and a nother tree neere  
to ye Clay pites one ye south sid one  
ye egge of ye Vpland and a great  
Elmo marked by ye Vpland side  
West from ye Clay pites and so a  
Longe with marked trees by ye Up-  
land side tell wee Came neere to Mr  
Endickat medow these are ye bounds  
of that medow that Lyeth one the  
south sid ye riuier Caled Ipswich  
riuier a Joying to ye riuier from mr  
Endickat farme doune to the Clay  
pites neere to the Bridge by Joseph  
Townes house.





Thomas perkins bounds betwene his Land at Billigate and the Townes Common Land, the first tree marked is a popler tree neere the medow Caled Robard Smith medow and a heape of stones from thence southeast two a swamp where there is two popler trees marked with a heape of stones betwene them and from thence to a smale wall nuttree neere to a swampe marked with a heape of stones at it; from thence to a smale Whiat oake in a swamp marked and a heape of stones at it neere to the Corner of berzilah Barkers Land.

John Wilds his bounds betwene the Towne Land and his, a great whiate oacke marked from thence to a Littell blake ocke marked and a heape of stones at it from thence to a heape of stones and two wallnuts trees marked from thence to a stake and a heape of stones and three Littell trees marked that stands neere to ye stake & heape of stones from thence to an eleme tree marked in a swampe neere the south side of the swamp from thence to a heape of stones behind William perkins house from thence to a nother heape of stones which is the Corner betwene William perkins and John How

John How bounds from a heape of stones that are the Corner bounds betwene him and William perkins from thence to a heape of stones that are about two rode and a halfe of his barne from thence to a heape of stones neere his dweling house and from thence to where he Joynes to Goodman Clarke.

At a Lawfull meeting of ye selectmen ye 1 June 1675.

Isack Estey and John Robinson and Jacob Townes are Chosen and apioynted to Vew the Way one ye south sid of ye Riuer and to aLow of it as thay shall see good that Way as goeth to Salam that is Complained of. Voted

this is a trew Cope of a Recet that Edman towne twoke of the Contre tresarer mr Rusil as a discarg of a contre rate that was mad and Comited to him to gather vp being Constabel.

Edmand townes Constabel of topsfeild hath paid to mee twelue pounds fine shilings and seuen pence which is in full of thare townes proporcion of the Cuntre Rate for the yere 1674. witnes mi hand the 4 iii mo. 1675.

by me Ricard Rusil treasurar ther is a Rate mad by the selectmen the 3 of august 1675 for the defraing of our townes proporcion of a singel Contre Rate dobeled according to warant that we Receued from the Contre tresurer.

this Rate Comited to the Constabel iohn how is twenti fine pound six pence.

at a lafull meeting of the Selectmen the 8 of september 1675 wee hau agreed to mak a stone wall aboute the meeting hous for  
\* \* the wall is to be three foote brod in the botom and fine foot hie  
\* \* or six as shall be thote most Conueniant with a watch hous at the south est Corner with in this wall ten foot square this is to be don by the towne and except such as do vsalli Com to her the word preched at or in our meeting hows will help the towne most do it at thar one charge.





this wall is to be ten foote from the meeting hous side and ende but on the south side it is to be twelue foot be twene this wall and the hous and the wach hows Cornar is to be fore foot from the hous end.

ther is a Rate Comited to John how Constabel a singel Contre Rate that a mountes to a leuen pound ten shillins and three pene.

also ther is a nother Rate Comited to John how Constable that is demanded by warant from the Contri treserar that a mountes to seuen singel Contre Rates which som is Eighte fore pound and seuentene shillens.

at a meeting of the select men the 10 of Januari 1675 ther was a Rate Comited to John how Constable for the minester which Rate amountes to sixte on pound one shilin and two pene for the sad Constable to gather in spedeli for the mantanane of our minister 60 pound is his due the Remander is for the townes use.

John how Constabel of topsfeeld hath payd in to the treserar of the Contrey the 8 october 1675 fore and twente pounds eleuen shilligs and two pence in full of the sad townes proporeion to the two extreordenari Rates due to the Contre the last of october last past as the some is allowed on for 66.

p. me. Richard Rusil treserar.

at a lawfull meeting of the select men ther was a Rate Comited to John how Constable for to gather and pay in to the Contre traserar for our townes proporeion being Eighte fore pound this is Recorded befor in in a nother plac the whol Rate is Eighte fore pound seauenteene shillings.

at a Lawfull Towne Meting the 7 of March 1675-76. Left. Francis pabody is Chosen Clark to kep the Towne Book this yere:

at a lawfull towne meeting the 7 of march 1675-76 its agreed that select men shall be chosen bi nomenacion this yere and vote[d].

at a lawfull towne meeting the 7 march 1675-76 mr thomas baker and Epherau dorman and sargan Redington and francis pabody and decon perkens all of them are Chosen to be select men for to order the preudancell asares of the towne this yere Insuing.

John How is Chosen Constabell for this yere in suing and voted 1675-76. Jacob towne Is Chosen to sarue one the Juri of trialls at Ipswich Corte next in suing.

7 march daniel borman and Isack Este ar Chosen soruaures of huiacs and fences for this yere in suing and voted.

at a lawfull towne meeting 7 march 75 it is granted that samuel howlet and John french william perkens iuner and micall donell that thay shall be Comenars as other freeholder are In our Coman land for feed and other preuliges voted.

at a lawfull towne meeting the 7 march 1675-76. sargan Redington and John wiles and frances pabody ar Chosen a comite for the towne to agree with mr thomas backer to axchang a strip of land that lies aioyning to the sad mr bakers land and also to satel the boundes of his farme voted.

at a lawfull meeting 7 march 75 it is ordered that the select men shall see



that the olde book the towne book shall be transcribed into the new book and that the land on the south sid the Reuer that was layed out by deuisions to the seueral inhabetants the select men shall see that ther lots be Recorded according as the ware lade out voted.

at a lawfull meeting of the selectmen the forthenth da Juli. 76, ther was Comited to John how Constabel a Rate for the defraing of ten singel Rates which Rate amountes to a hondered and twente pound for the sad Constabel to colackt and gather of the saueral parsons Ratabel and cari it in to the Contri treserar.

20. 7. 1675. at a lawfull meeting of the towne Isack Comins senar is Chosen graniuri man for this yeare Insuing also William Auiril is Chosen to sarue on the Jurie of trials at Ipswich Corte next Insuing.

at a meeting of the selectmen the 29 of desamber 1676 ther is a Rate for the minester Comited to the Constabel John how to gather vp and care in to mister hobart his due is sixte pound but the Rate amountes to sixte two pound and about twelue shillins.

Rescued this: 13th: 3d: 75. of Ephraim Dorman Constable of Topsfeild in full their Townes preporion to the Cuntry Rate for one singgle Rate and three quarters the some of nineteene pounds eight shillings and six pence.

I say rescued for the yeare 73.  
by me  
Rishard Russell Treasurer.

Mr Hobard  
11lb: 2s: 0d

this is a true Coppy  
of the trasurrs re-  
seight taken by me

Mr Russells  
8lb: 6s: 6d

frances pabody Clarke

dated the 29 of January 1676.

this fift of febrnari 1676 ther is a Rate for the defraing of Indian ware Charges Containing six singel Contrerates Rates which amounteth to fiffe three pound and sixteene shilens this Rate is delivered to John How Constabel for to gather vp and deleuer to the Contre treserar or his assigns accordingli as he hath diracion In the tresares warrant.

at a lawfull towne meeting march 2. 1676—77 Isack Comings senr. is Chosen moderater this present meeting voted.

it is agreed that the select men shall be Chosen by nominacion not with standing ani formor ordr voted.

it is agreed that the Clarke shal be Chosen bi nominacion this day for this yeare insuing—voted not with standing ani formor order.

Leftenant Pabody is chosen Clarke for the yeare inseuing voted.

John how is Chosen Constabel for the yeare insuing voted.

the towne hath granted to John how a slip of land to John how of two rod and half brod at his barn and to Com to nothing at his stak at his bond stak to wards the bridg bi goodman Clarks.

Ensigne goold sargen towne decon perkeings John Redington and frances pabody ar Chosen selectmen for the yere in suing - - - voted.

John Comings is Chosen to sarue on the Juri of trials the next Cort at Ipswich - - - voted.







John french and John Robeson are Chosen seruaires for hiwas to see that thay be mad pasabel as the law requires - - - - voted.

the seruaires hau powr and here by ar impouered to tak or destrane there fines for not attending the mending hiwaes after legall warning two shilings six pene for eueri dayes neglact thay hauing two dayes warning - - - - voted.

John Honey and Samuel Howlat ar Chosen to see to the mending fences that thay see that thay be as town orders Require

the town hath agreed to Chang a bout half anacor of vpland for somoth madoo with Edman towne decon perkeings and frances pabody ar Chosen to see it don - - - - voted

Recened october the 22th 1676 from John how Constabel of Topsfeild for the year 1675 the som of Elenen pownd ten shilings and three pence in some that being in full of that townes singel Rate for the a for saide yere as witnes mi hand as Execeteter to my honored father Richard Rusill late tresarer

James Rusill

This is a trew Cope of the Constabel John how his Recet that he brot from the tresarers Execettor.

pr mee frances pabody Clarke 1676.

there is a towne Rate made the thre and twentieth of february for the defraing of all towne debtes as alsoe whot is yet oing to mr. gilbrt.

At a lawfull towne meeting march the 7. 1676—77 the towne hath granted to william perkeings iunar two scores of vpland liing betwene his one house and the swamp that strip of land that was axchanged for

mali with william perkeings for land that John how had of t[h]e towne and the for sayd willi perkeings is to pay three pownd in Corant pay to the towne voted.

the towne hath agreed with John Robeson to sweep the meeting hows and he is to haue twenti five shilings a yere.

also he is to dig graues for such as shall Requir him and he is to haue three shilins six pene for al graues abou for foot long and two and six pene for al vnde[r].

the towne granted to exchang a smal strip of land with sargen towne at alawfull towne meeting march 2 1676—77 the towne made Coyse of decon perkens and frances pabody to see it don and thay the afor said men on the sixt of aperill did goe and see it don and it is thus don from a whit oke marked on the southe sid of the sad Edman townes madoo land to a small popeler in a line or strait Corse and that popeler is his bound Cornar tree next to the Coweman and from that popeler strat to the Reuer where there is a small Red oke marked.

In august 1676 thare was a Rate made and Comited to John how Constab[el] to gather vp and pay into the tresarer or his assignes the Rate is six singel Contre Rates which som amontes to fifte three pound and thirteene shilins.

at a meeting of the select men Januari 4 1677 ther is Comited to Jo how Constable two Rates on is the singel Contre Rate which amontes to nine pound two shilens and Eight pene the other Rate is the moni Rate which is two singel Contre Rates which amontes to Eighteene pound



five shileings and fore pene which Rates the Constabel is to gather vp of the saueral parsons Ratabel and pa it in to the Contre tresarer or his assignes.

where as the towne mad Coyse of sargen Redington and John wiles seenar and frances pabody to agree with mister baker about exchange of a small strip of land about three acres and a half which the afor-named men haue don the land that mister baker hath of the townes land lieth against his hous in part as it is layd out and the bredth at the Est end is ten Rod wide and a half from the Cornar of his wall which is the bounds of it at the Est ward Cornar and his lin is to Ron from that Corno[r] of his land to a grat whit oke about twente and fwe Rod distanc souwest ner to the hiwa that lieth or ledath from the falles bridg to the meeting howse and from that whit oke vp the hill as the fence Rones that is now standing which is a hadg and to go strat from the End of that fenc to a grat Rad oke which is marked and at that tree the land mr baker hath of the towne comes to a poynted wedg, now the bowndes of mr bakers land is neer along bi the way from the foi sade oke to a small oke marked neer the hiwa as goes or comes from or to the meeting hous and from that small oke twente and on Rod towards the meeting hous wher the afore named men did agree with mr baker that his bound Cornor of his farm should be now this on and twente Rod from the small oke to the bound stake and from this bound stak fite and fore Rod strat on in mr bakers line west ward from the meeting hous where was a

stak sat and a heap of Rokes lad about the stake Rit in a beaten hi-way and from this stak and heap of stones Rit in a line to the afor named small oke now this is the land the towne hath of mr baker twente one Rod brod fite and for Rod long Coming to a poynted wedg at the end of fite fore Rod now the boundes of mr bakers land from the bound stake and heap of stones that is at the End of the land the towne hath of mr baker from that stak and heaps of stones Rit in a line to a marked tree at the foot of the bridg nere to Ephrom dormans hous.

20 June 1677.

the seect men of Topsfeild doe aLow a blake rone horse of John Gould to bee alikely horse aCording to Law to rune apon ye Commons. June 1677.

John Comings is Chosen graniure man for the next Cort heeld at Ipsweech.

August 26 1677.

John french is Chosen to sarue on the Juri of trialls the next Cort hild at Ipswich.

Kno al parsons by these presents that I doe acquitt and discharge the towne of topsfeild of and from thare three first Rates of sixte pound pr anom for my labors in the ministrey thare I sa I doe fulli acquitt thare three Rates for ann 72, 73, 74, and haue receued them trewli and fulli as wittnes my hand

Jerimi hobart.

may 3da 1677 in presence of Thomas baker John how who ware apoynted by the selet men to account the Rates aforesaid with my selfe as tha say.

Boston this : 17 : of march : 1678.





Receued of franses Pebody the just  
sum of foure pounds in mony and is  
in full to pay the subscription to the  
contribution for the new buleding for  
the Colledge j say Receued by me  
william Manning: wittnes Henry  
Bartholmew. which for pownd j franes  
pabody Receued of the Constabel  
Samuel Houlat witnes my hand  
frances pabody.

at a Meeting of the freemen the 22  
of the 2 mo 1679, Sargen John Red-  
ington was Chosen gran Jurinman for  
the yeare Insing voted

at a lawfull meeting of the select  
men the 14 iune 1679. thay hau  
worke at mr hubba[rts] to make a  
hage fence shall pay two shiling six  
penc a day from sixteene yeare onld  
and vpward as the law doth not free.

at a lawfull meeting of the select  
men John how was Chosen to sarue  
on the Jurie of triales the next Cort  
that is to be heeld at Ipswich, 13, da  
of september 1680. voted

at a lawfull meeting of the select  
men 13 of the 7 month 1680, a writ-  
ing to John hunkin to fore warne  
him of Coming to be an inhabetant  
in oure towne.

at a lawfull towne meeting the  
forth of may 1681, Isack este senar  
was Chose to be graniure man fo the  
[y]eare insuing voted.

We whos names are under writen  
hauing power from the Towne to  
settell bounds with those that Joyne  
on our Common: we hane a cordingly  
agreed with mr Timmothy Pirkins;  
that all the upland and medow: that  
is within his fence at this time Jenu-  
ary ye 5th 1686: in the field by the  
meeting hous nere bare hill: shall be

and Remaine to him and his heirs  
foreuer, and the fence as it now  
stands shall be his bounds and that  
it shall be entered in our Towne  
book; for the which he the said Tim-  
mothy Pirkins doth in iage to pay  
two pounds eleuen shilings

Thomas Baker  
John How  
Jacob Towne

one and twenty of that a boue  
mentioned is mony I am sertenly in-  
formed by Mr. Thomas baker and  
Mr. Timmothy Pirkins.

Ephraim dorman.

Decn Isaac Comings Constable of  
Topsfield for the yeare one thousen  
six hundred and eighty six, I say re-  
reseued of him ye full of that rate  
which was made for my use for ye  
year aforesaid and committed to him  
to collect I say reseued of him for  
that yeare in full for what was com-  
mitted to him to gather

by me Joseph Capen.

dat Jan 26: 1691

this is a true copy entered pr me  
Ephraim Dorman

Recorder for Topsfield.

rescued ye full of ye rate for ye  
yeare 85 by the hand of Elisha Pir-  
kins constable, witnes my hand

Joseph Capen.

May 21: 88 this is a true copy en-  
tered pr me

Ephraim Dorman Clarke.

Charlstowne 18th march 1690: or 91.

then Resened of mr John Towne  
Constable of Topsfield three twenty  
shilling bills of ereadit and thirty six  
shillings in mony and is in full of ye  
two mony rates and a halfe of said  
Towne ye wholl was the remainder  
four pounds sixteen shillings I say



reseued pr John Phillips Treasurer  
Copia Vare—Ephraim Dorman  
Towne Clarke.

Charlstowne ye sixt of may 1691.

Reseued of mr John Towne Cunstable of Topsfield eighty pounds in bills Charged on said Constable and bills of Creadit as mony in full of ye ten rates which he was to Colect of ye inhabitence of said Towne by worrent bareing date ye 2 of Aprill 1690. I say reseued pr John Phillips Treasurer.

Copia Vare—atest Ephraim Dorman Towne Clarke

Charls Towne ye 16 desember 1692  
the[n] Reseued of mr John Towne Cunstable of Topsfield ye sum of ninety pounds fve shillings and one penny as mony in pt of ye twenty Rates of said Town. I say Reseued pr John Phillips Treasurer

Copya Vare—atest Ephraim Dorman Town Clarke.

Boston february 22:1693-4.

Reseued of mr John Towne Constable of Topsfield ten shillings and six pence bill of Creadit and four pounds four shillings and fve pence by discount for my master James Tailor Treasurer in full of ye twenty Rates of said Townes asesment  
04:14:11 pr Jareemiah Allin

Copia Vare—atest Ephraim Dorman Clarke.

at a meeting of the select men the forth of Januari 1677. there was a Rate Comited to Ensigne goold and John how for to gather vp and pay in to the ministar mister hobart. tha ar to pay to the ministar sixte pound and tha are to pay John Robeson twente and fve shilings and thay ar

to haue the Rest for thar paynes or for gathering vp the ministeres due and John Robesons due.

this Rate her spesified is sixte fve pound nine shilings and ten pence.

at a lawfull Town Meting the fourth of March 1678 Left. francis Pabody is chosen clark to kep the town Book this yere voted:

samuel howlat is Chosen Constabel for this year insuing voted.

Ensigne goold mr thomas baker [I]sack Co[m]jings John houeey and frances pabody ar Chosen selectmen for to order the prudacal afares of the town for this year insuing voted.

John french and John Robeson ar Chosen soruaares for hiwas this year insuing. voted.

John Wiles and danil borman are Chosen to vew fences this yeare insuing. voted.

John Robeson is agreed with for to sweep the meeting hous and to fasen the dores and is to haue twente fve shilens for his payenes voted

the towne hath granted to tobiiiah perkins to be a Comanar for feed and faling timbe[r] as his nibors ar.

tobiiiah perkins is Chosen to sarue on the Jure of trials the next Counte Cort hild at Ipswich voted.

at a lawfull towne meeting march 5, 1677.78 the towne granted to mr hobart the pond that lieth on the southside or south est end or side of the meeting hous and three ackeres of land aioyening to it voted.

at a lawfull towne meeting 5 march. 1677.78. the towne for the preseruing of thare timber on the south sid the Reuer haue agreed that no man haue forward shall fal ani trees or timber with out leue from





such men or man that t[h]e towne shall impoure to giue leue if ani shall fall ani treee with out leue hee shall pay for eueri tree ten shilins to the towne.

this order is for the timber on the south side the Reuer onli voted.

Isack Este senr is Chosen and impouered to grant liberti to such of our towne as need ani timber and to take the penalti of ani that shall fall ani timber without leue voted.

at a lawfull towne meeting march 5, 1677.78. the towne granted to Isack Este senr and Jacob towne and John Robeson a small strip of vpland and swamp ling by the Reuer on the south side the Reuer and the aboue sade men are to giue to the towne whot the select men and thay shall agree vpon for the prise of it.

voted.

march 5, 1677-78.

the towne granted to mr william perkins senr liberti to remoue his fence on the south west end of his feeld to the vpland side sowwest ward hee paying for it to the towne as the select men and hee shall agree prouided it be no predegidis to the parsonidg land

voted.

the towne granted to william perkins Juner a strip of land aioyning to his one land bounded with a letel Ron of water in part on the west side of it and the sade william perkins is to pay to the towne Eight pound for it except the select men Judg it worth more its laft to them and him self to agree for the prise of it

voted.

Receued march 17th 167<sup>8</sup>: from Isack Este by a noat from mr siman

broadstreet ecquire the som of two pounds and six shilings in full of Topefelds rate for the yeare, 1664. I say Receued as Excecutor to my honored father Racherd Rusil Esquir late tresurar desesed

James Rusill.

at a lawfull towne meeting march 5, of 167<sup>7</sup><sub>8</sub> the towne granted to John how fine Rod of ground to be lade out at the norwest Corner of his howslot by his barne. voted.

the 19 of aperel 1678 this aboue mencioned fine Rod of ground granted to John how is lade out by the select men the extent of it is about fore Rod nor ward from a great oke that is now standing nere the way against John howes barne.

this is a recet of whot william perkins hath payed to the towne in part of the three pound he oeth to the towne for his first pareil of land he boote of the towne.

Receued of william perkins. iuner, sixteene shilings for the uee of the towne of topefeeld by the order of insigne John goold select man in the yeare 1677. 2 aperell 1678.

Joseph bisbe.

this sixteene shilings aboue mencioned and payed to Joseph bigsbe to him for worke he did about mr hoberts windoe or for shingel for it.

at a lawfull meeting the thirteth day of aperell 1678, sargent John Redington was Chosen to sarue on the graniurie this yeare in suing

voted.

at a lawfull meeting of the select men 23 Juli 1678 wee doe order that thare shall be noe Rames ore Rame to Rune vpon ani ground that is with



out fence after the first of august next Insuing tell a month after mickellmas vpon the forfeiture of one half of the Rames or Rame soe taken vp and it is lawfull for ani man to take ani Rames ore Rame that is seene to ron vpon ani vnfenced ground within the time aboue sayed.

at a lawfull towne meeting 27 of august John Redington is Chosen Comisioner to Joyne with the select men to mak the Contre Rate and to Care it in to salam as the law diracts voted.

at a lawfull towne meeting 27 august John Comines is Chosen to sarue on the Juri of trials the naxt Counte Corte held at Ipswich voted.

boston october 10. 1678.

Receued of Constabel John how of topfeeld in part of the moni Rates forteene pound no. 305.

John hull tresurar.

I also acknoledg that the first ten Rates mad in the yeare, 1666, are fully paid

John houll tresarer.

at a lawfull meeting of the select men in nouembear 1678. theare was Comited to samuell howlat Constabel two Rates the one is a Counte Rate the third parte of a singel Contre Rate which amountes to three pound fife shiling which the Constabel is to gather vp and pay in to marshall scare of salame the other Rate is al to be payed in moni it is the Coledg Rate which is in the whol som fore pound and seuen shilings fore pound of it is to be payde at Cambredg and Eight shilings to Ensigne goold.

also decan perkens william nicalles Isack Este and f[r]ances pabody are

Chosen and apoynted to be tithing men to Inspect ani parson ore parsons that shall profane the saboth and to proseed against ani that shall be falte as the law diractes.

desamber 1678. ther is two Rates Comitted to samuell howlat Constabel to gather vp and pay in to the Contre treserar or his asines the on Rate is a singel Contre Rate to be payde all in moni and the other is adobel Contre Rate it mabe payed in Corne or moni on Rate amountes to nine pownd forteene and a lenen pene the other amountes to nineteene pound thirteene shilings and a leuen pene.

1678. Januarie the leuenth ther is the ministeres Rate Comited to samuel howlat Constabel to gather vp and pay in to the minister his due is sixte pownd but the Rate the full som is sixte one pownd forteene shilings and on pence.

at a lawfull towne meeting in Januari 1678 the tow[n]e hath agreed that the select men shall haue ponar to set vp a galere and those that sit in it shall pay for the seting vp the galere and the townes men shall haue the first profer of the seates in bying of them.

this was voted by mee samuel howlat Constabel.

where as the towne granted william perkens Junar a small strip of land liing and ioyning to his one land liing on the sowest and a small Rone of water on the west and soe from John howes vp the Ron of water tel the Ron of water partes in to two where there is a small tree marked and soe from that tree to the Cornar





of his fenc as it now standes where ther is a tree marked alsoe this strip of land here mencioned was laft to the select men and william perkens to agree about the prise of it and thay did agree for fiteene pound to be payed in three yeare fiv[e] pound a yeare in Corn and Catil to the towne In neete Catil and marchantabel Corne at prise Corant the on half Corn the other Catil.

Januari 31. 1678. the select man mat.

where as william perkens was indated to the towne three pownd for a small parsil of land that he bought of the towne befor this fifteen pownd perchas the said william perkens hath payed that three pownd as he was ordered by the select men for the townes vse and alsoe he hath payed twente and two shilings and six pene more [t]orwards of his first five pownd.

At A Lawfull Town-Meeting of the Inhabitants of Topsfd. on the fourth of March 1678-79. Lieut Pabody was chosen Towne-Clarke for this year, 1679.

at a lawfull towne meeting the forth of march. 1678-79, william perkens iuner is Chosen Constabel for this yeare Insuing voted.

at a lawfull towne meeting march the forth 1678-79 Ensigne goold, mr thomas baker, sargen Redenton, Jacob towne and frances pabody ar Chosen select men for this yeare insuing.

the towne doth prohebet t[h]e select men from alinating ani of the townes land nor make any new Rates to pay owld detes formarli put into

Rates with out the townes order. voted.

Isack Comins Is Chosen to sarue one the Juri of trials at the next Copt held at Ipswich. voted.

Isack Este is Chosen again to giue liberti to such as haue need of ani timber for bul[d]ing and feneing and the liberti he giues shall hold good but one yeare voted.

John french and Joseph towne senr ar Chosen for to be seruicers and for to look to the fences this yeare that both hiwas and fences be repared as need Require voted.

John andros bath liberti giuen him to set his fenc ouer a letel nack of land to straten his fane and if the towne see it Conuiant to Chang it with him after wardes voted.

Jacob towne and goodman wiles and Isack Este ar Chosen bi the towne to Ron the line betwene the Cow Comon and lots voted.

at a lawfull towne meeting the forth of march 1678-79 Ensigne goold and frances pabody ar Chosen to Record the lotes that are layd out on the south side the Reuer the lant and bredth as tha war layd out voted.

at a lawfull meeting of the select men march 14th 1678-79. thay haue ordered and here by declare that wher as thare was a way layd down bettwene mr perkenes orchard and william averis land which thay Conuee to be Coman land no man shall fence it in for thare propor vse but it shall Remain Coman still tell the towne do order it other other wase voted.

Ensigne goold desentes from this order.



at a lawfull meeting of the select men march 14eth 1678-79. there was two Rates made for to procure powder and buletes as the law diractes the on Rate Comited to samuell howlat Constabel to gather vp and bring in to the select men the wholl som of that Rate Comited to samuel howlat is fourtene pound six shilings and he is to gather vp but the on third of it for the other parte is al redi payde in porchesing that stock of powder and buletes that is in hand.

the other Rate is Comited to John Comines Clarke to gather vp of the villidgers that haue lad them salues to topsfeeld Compeni for to traine with them thare Rate the som of it is foure pownd ninteene shilins both these Rates ar to be payed in moni or indian Corne at two shilins a bushil al to be brought in to the select [men] of topsfeeld.

29 of aperel 1679. mr thomas baker was Chosen moderater for that meeting.

at a lawfull towne meeting 29. 2 mo 1679 the town agreed that the selectmen shall procure and by a cow for the vce of luck wacke [Luke Wakeling] and the towne will pay for her  
voted.

the towne of topsfeeld at a towne meeting the 29eth of aperel 1679 hauing heard an order Rad that was made by the Counte Court at Ipswich Concerning oure being Requiered to pay a som of 60 pound to mr Jarimiah hobart which as the said order seemes to expres was promised for his Incorigment to Com to topsfeeld wee being in the darke about it and not knoing of ani

towne act that euer past nor ani towne Record that houldes forth ani such thing we doe Conceue it need full to suspend vntill thare be a forder oportuniti to be batter satsefied by making inquire at the next Connte Court vpon whot groundes mr ier hobards petition was made and also how the towne Comes to be 60 pounds in his deat.  
voted.

boston, aperel 10th 1679.

Reed on act of samuel howlat and pament in full for the three last Rates due from the the towne of topsfeeld to the Country.

JohnHull treserar.  
No. 391 this is samuel howlates Recet from the tresarer.

at a lawfull meeting of the select men of topsfeeld the 14th June [1679] thay haue agreed thay that doe not Com to worke at mr hobartes to make a h[age] fence shall pay two shilings and six pene a day from sixteene yeares and vward that the law doth not free.

at a lawfull meeting of the select men the fourth of iuli 1679 th[ay] hauing Receued a warrant from the Contre tresarer whear in thay ware Requiered to gather of theare saueral inhabetants Ratabel foure singel Contre rates that amountes to thirte Eight pound nineteen shilings & for that end thay haue made a Rate and Comited it to the Constabe[l] william perkeings inner to gather vp and pay in to the Contre tresarer in boston the whol som of the Rate that is deliuered to the Constabel is thirte nine pound twelue shilings 4 d. al don in the forth of iuli.





at a lawfull meeting of the select men the 27 of august 1679 there was an order given to Ensigne Gould and Mr Thomas Baker for to demand and Receive of samuel howlat that moni Comited in a Rate to samuel howlat to gather vp for to by amonition as the l[aw] directs the whol Rat is about feifteene pound the third part is onli to be gathered.

at a lawfull meeting of the select men ienuari the on and twentieth [in] the yeare 1679. Received of william perkeines inner six pound three shilin[gs] in part of pay of that deapt he oeth the towne for land he bought of the to[wne] twente two shilings 6d of this six pound three shilings is entered in ano[ther] place in the booke.

at a lawfull meeting of the select men the 21eth of Januari 1679 th[ere] was a rate made for the minister which amounts to sixte pound an[d] sixteen shilins and ten pence which is deliuered to william perkines iun[er] being Constabel for him to gather vp and pay in to the minestar or cau[se] to be paid in to him or his assignes and to take a sosisiant discharge for the towne from the ministar of sixte pound which is due from the towne and bring that discharge to the select men.

daniel borman and John how and Epheram dorman and John nical[s] are Chosen tithing for this yeare insuing the ninth of february they beegan theare yeare 1679.

at a lawfull meeting of the free men the 13 aperel 1680 samuel howlet was Chosen graniuri man for the yeare in suing. voted.

at a lawfull meeting of the select men Janari 7 1680 there were made three Rates made two for the Contr[i] Containing fore singel Contr[i] Rates and one Rat for the Counte Contain[ing] half a singel Contre Rate it amountes to about six pound six shilings, also the Contr[i] Rates on is to be played in moni and that Rate is twente two pound three shilings twente pound fourteen shilings is to be payed to the Contr[i] treasurer and six shiling a deet to the select men which tha laid out for the biing and gating mesures for the townes use as law require, the other Rat amountes to twente pound fourteen shilings for the Contr[i] and the Ra[e] amountes to one and twente pound three shilings and six pence. thes Rates are Comited to william smith Constabel to gather vp in ianari 1680.

2 of march: 1679 or 80. Leftenant Pebody was chosen Clarke for the year in suing voted.

John how was Chosen to Reord town actes this day 2 march 1679.

Mr Thomas Baker sargen Radington Corprel Jacob towne John howey and frances pabody are Chosen select men for this yeare in suing and tha are impouered to order the prudanciel afares of the towne this yeare voted by papers.

Corporall william smith is Chosen Constabel for the yeare insuing voted.

John willes is Chosen Juriman of trials for this next Court to be at Ipswich voted.

John french and John how are Chosen suruacres for this yeare insuing voted.

at a towne meeting 2 of march



1670. 80 the towne haue mad Choise of John how to giu a deede to mr william perkeins iuni[er] of that strip of land which the towne sold to him and is laad out to him by the select men voted.

William auerel Enteres his Contrari desent.

mr baker Coporal towne and John willes are Chosen a Comitte to Run the boundes that are betwene the five hondered ackores that are laad out for the towne Comon and the lotes that but against it on the south that Coman here ment is on the south side the Reuer also tha are to run the boundes that ar betwene william auerel and danel borman and frances pabody soe far as thay Joyne to-gather voted.

the 22 of march 1679.80.

the fore sade three men mr thomas baker Corporall towne and John Wiles haue acording to towne order haue Reueued the boundes betwene dail borman and frances pabody by laing a heape of Rockes in that place where formarli dicare was a tree but now Rotten and gon in leftenant Pebody orchard witnes our handes

Thomas Baker

John wills

Jacob towne

at a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 7 may 1680.

The Towne manifestes by voat that thay ware not Willing mr Hubbard should Continiae in ye Worke of ye ministrey here at Topsfeeld without mr Hubbard and ye Towne Can agree in a more Christan way than thay bee in at prsent. voted.

the towne by vote does declare that if mr hobard desire a towne

meeting hee may discors with the towne if hee apoyint a daye the naxt weeke thay will meet with him if hee giu notes on saboth day naxt. 7 may 1680.

The Towne has manifestes by vote that thay are willing to Jone with ye Viligers and our Neaighobers of the forimes of Ipswich that doe order-nely Come to heare ye word heare to petition the Generall Court that wee might be Laid to gather for ye Cariang one ye ministerey may 7 1680.

at a lawfull towne meeting may 7 1680, william perkeines Juner and samucl howlat are Chosen Colacters to gather vp all Rates Comited to them for the minester or ani other Rates Comited to them and to sue In Case ani shal Refues to pay at bauerle or ani whear Elc where Rates are due to vs

at a lawfull towne meeting 7eth of may 1680. Ensigne John goold and mr thomas baker are Chosen to Joyne with the vilegeres and our nibores in Ipswich that Comonli Com to here the word of god here to Joyne with them to petision the general Court to grant that thay may Joyne with topefeeld to the mantaining of the ministre to gather voted.

at a lawfull towne meeting the 10eth of may 1680. John willes and John how a[re] Chosen to looke that men Ring thare swine acording to towne order vote[d].

at a lawfull meeting of the select men the tenth of July 1680 thay Receuing the new lawes mad at the genarall Court heeld ma— last 1680 abought new standereds or meseres





for Corne bere and wine we the  
selact men doe promis the Constabel  
to defray the Charges that he shall  
all nasasarili la out on this ocaision  
voted.

at a lawfull meeting of the selact  
men the 27 Juli 1680, frances pa-  
body was Chosen to sele wates and  
mesures by the town standered as is  
now newli Com from England and is  
at present to be our standered in  
masetuset Colene  
voted.

at a lawfull towne meeting the  
tenth of august 1680. Ensigne  
goold is Chosen Comisionar to Joyne  
with the selactmen to take notes of  
the townes heades and estates Rat-  
abel and to Cari in the townes Estat  
to salam at tim and plac according to  
law  
voted.

this is to sarti fie that samuel how-  
lat Constabel hath satis fied the  
Counte Rate which was made in the  
yeare 1678 and Comited to him to  
gather vp this twenti ninth of Sep-  
tember 1680.

Receued of samuell howlatt Con-  
stabel of topefeld in full of the  
Counte Rate due in 78. the some of  
three pounds five shilings I say Re-  
cued  
pr me Robert Payne  
tresear.

the two and twenteth of october  
1680 william smith Constabel  
g \* \* \* \* \* that the se-  
lect men In the behalf of the towne  
did fore warn him of liuing as a[n]  
inhabetant in topefeld fore dayes  
after he brought his famili within the  
boundes of topefeeld

at a lawfull meeting of the selact  
men 7 Januari 1680, the selact men  
Rackened with William Perkeus

abought his dat he oeth the towne  
and he hath payed of his deat of  
fertene pound nine pound six shil-  
ings and six pene as he did make  
apere by Recetes where he had paed  
the townes dattes as he was ordered  
good man Robeson is paed in this  
account for two yeare Ending in  
march next insuing for sweeping the  
hous.

topefeeld the 14 of Januari 1680.  
Receued of the towne of topefeeld  
for mi labor in the ministri thare for  
the yeares 1675 and 1676 the some  
of sixte pound for each vpon a true  
account with John how Constabel for  
the yeares afore said i sa reieued by  
mee  
Jarimia hobart.

witnes et  
thomas baker and John how.

at a lawfull towne the 17 of  
december 1680. the towne did  
agree and Cuse a Comite to agree  
with mr danforth for his Contenuing  
here at topefeeld in the worke of the  
ministri as the towne shall giue  
diraction to the Comit[e] tha shall  
Chuse  
voted

at a lawfull towne meeting in  
Januari 1680 frances pabody and  
Ensigne goold are Chosen by the  
towne of topefeeld as a Comite  
according to dyraction from the hon-  
ared maior genaral danison for the  
produsing the best auidane tha Can  
to proue our titel good to the sile  
wee liu on  
voted

John goold senr John Redington  
decon thomas perkeins frances pa-  
body mr thomas baker John pabody  
Jacob towne senr Isack Este John  
houey neamia abot John willes these  
fore mencioned men ar Chosen a



Comite in the behalfe of the towne to agree with mr danforth for his Continuing here with vs at topefeeld in the worke of the ministri and wee doe farther giu power to the Comite to chuse som amongst themselves or ani other as thay shall see meet to goe and spak with the deputi gouarnor or ani other that may beconcerned abought mister danforth sattelment voted

the towne hath giuen pouar to the Comite that thay haue Chosen to agree with mr danforth and to proffer him three score pound a yeare one third in siluer and the other two thirides to be payed in Corant pay of the Contre at the Contre prise namli in wheat porke molt butter Rie indean Corne an equal proposon of all with out ani particular parson or parsones doe agree with mr danforth to take it in ani on of the afore mencioned payes and if the Comite Canot agree with mr danforth for whot is afore specified thay haue powar to promise thirte pownd in siluer and the other thirte pownd as is before speified voted

at a lawfull meeting of the select men the 11 february 1680 danell Clark Isack Comines seennr John french and John Cortes ar Chosen for tithing men for the yeere insuing voted

At a Lawfull Towne meting the first of march 1680 or 81 Leftenant Pebody was Chosen Clarke for this yere.

tobiih perkeins Is Chosen Constabel for the yeare insuing voted

Ensigne goold Isack Este Ephroam darman frances pabody and samuel

howlat are Chosen select men for the yeare insuing voted

Corperal towne is Chosen to sarue on the iuri of trials the next Counte Couart heeld at Ipswich voted

at a lawfull towne meeting the first of march 1680 or 1 the towne granted to John Cortis to be a free Comonar as is granted to other of his nibores ar as tobiih perkeins and mickal donel ar voted

mr thomas backer Ensigne goold and John houey ar Chosen a Comite to goe and veue land that Isack Este and thomas perle haue prounded to the town \* \* and to mak Retorne to the towne the next towne meeting how thay find it far the towne to be willin to grati fie those men voted

mr thomas backer Corporal Jacob towne william smith sener ar Chosen to goe to Ipswich Cort next Ensigne goold to goe also to see if tha Can disposes hunkins and Remoue heem from topefeeld and tha ar to prosecute it to efact voted.

this towne meeting is aiorned tell the 22eth of this instant march voted

at a lawfull meeting of the select men the tenth of march 1680 or 81 the select men now in being doe Consent and agree with Insigne goold is Chosen and John honey that thay shall sat vp a galari in the meeting hous the wholl length of the hous and to make it three seates wide the lanth of the hous and tha ar to be paid by those that shall sit in tham according to that the towne did agree at a towne meeting in the yeare 1678 as ye may find 15 page voted





at a lawfull towne meeting the 22eth of march 1680 or 80 the towne agreed that the towne order about swine in the yeare 1673 for yocking and Ringing swine shall stand in full force tell the town see Cause to alter it voted

John how and John french ar Chosen sornueres to see to the mending hiwas for the yeare insuing and fences also. voted

at a lawfull towne meeting the 22eth of march 1680 or 81 the towne did agree that the select men shall order the prudencial afares of the towne but thay shal not alinat or giue or exchang ani of the townes land voted

Lliut pebody is Chosen to seale all the meseuers of topsfeld and yards as ye doe Requier for th:: yeare in sueing voted

Rescued of William Smith Constabell of Topsfeeld in full of his County Rate this 15th march 1680 the some of 5lb : 3s : 4d : 105lb 03s : I say Rescued by mee

Roberd Payne Tresener

This is a true Copeye of ye Tresener Rescaute to ye Constabell the 22 : march 1670 : or : 81

fances pabody Clark

at a lawfull towne meeting the 22 march 1680 or 81 the towne granted liberti to the vilegeres to bi a third part of the galeri to sit in so that to pay proporsionabel; to the ministri as is Judged meet by

Left Pebody Decon Pirkins  
Ensigne Gould Sargt Pebody  
John Houey

at a lawfull towne meeting the 22 march 1680. or. 81 the Towne doth

giue full power to mr Thomas Baker & Corpl Jacob Townes & John How to demand of any man or men that hath any Land Lying in our Towne to show there bounds of ye Land thay haue in our Towne bounds and if thay or hee dos refuse to show there bounds thay haue full power to sue for a mesere of there Land and to doe thare best indeuer to reCouer for ye Towne whot is more then there grants: and ye aboue named men are to haue one halfe of what they reconer for there paynes with out ye Towne see good to pay th in dubbel waiges for there time thay hauing power to agree with those men that haue Land with in our bounds the Towne haueing halfe or other wise as is before expressed

voted

*The following sentence is written and then crossed out.*

"the true meing of this order is that thay shall meseuér only ye putnam Land and fa"

At a Lawfull Towne Meeting ye 22 : march 1680 or 81 The Towne Meeting a Jorened and Left to ye description of ye selectmen to Call et and if thay see good or neede of et and if thay doe Cale this meeting thay are to signifie et vnder there hands in wrighteen

there is a rate made the Eight of aperel the yere 1681 being the forth parte of a singel Contre Rate which is to be paid in moni for the masin-gar or agantes for thare expedition for london our warrant is for two pound cleuen shilinges and nin pene but the rate the wholl som is fiffe sauen shilinges and three pene this Rate was deliuered to the Constabel



tobiiah perkenes the 26 day of aperel for to gather vp and Cari in to the Contritresarer as his warrant diractes him.

at a lawfull town meeting the forth of may 1681. Ensigne goold and sargen John Redington ar Chosen to goe to mr apes at salam to see if he will excapt of a Call to the menestre here

boston may 10 1781.

Receted of mr John how Constabel of topsfeild by saueral paymentes in Rates pay and money in full of the town Rates and the two six Rates and the three Rates for the yeares 1676 and 1677 two hondeed and sueti fore pounds fore shilings and six pence I sa Receued by order of mi master mr John hull

per me John newman

Witnes William smith.

boston may 21eth 1680

Receued of mr william perkenes Constabel of topsefeld by saueral pamentes in full of the last four Rates in money and as moni nineteene pound nin shilings and ten pence and in full of the half moni Rate fwe pounds one shiling and six pence and in Rate pay in full of the last singel Contre Rate ten pounds three shilings I say Receued by order of my master John hull esquir

by me John newman

Receued may 9eth 1631 from william smith one aCount of of tobiiah perkenes two pounds alauen shilings and 9 pence being in full of topsefeld moni Rate for our agantes

James Rusil tresarer

at a lawfull towne meeting the 17 of June 1681 Ensigne goold and Isack este ar Chosen to goe to mester danel apes to se if he will

Com to help vs in Respect of the menistri eueri other saboth or oftener if he Can in order to a forther axperiencie of ech other voted

At a Lawfull Towne Meeting ye 17 June 1681: The Towne has ordered that there shall bee noe bogen mine doge in ye Towne but by some townes man: and hee that dos dige et shall Carey et with his one tene or hierce a townesman to Carey et alwayes prouided hee that diges it a greees with the selectmen of the Towne to pay fouer pence a ton for the Towne vese ether in siluer or Iron and this order stands in force till next march: Towne Meeting after the date hereof on till forder order bee taken about it voted

at alawfull meeting of the select men iune 27eth 1681 the select men granted Ensigne goold liberte to dig twente tun of bogmine and is [to] paye six shilings and Eight pence in silver or iarn according to town order voted

At a Lawfull meeting of the seclact men June 27: 1481 the seclactmen haue granted Liut pebody Liberty to dige twent[e] ton of bogemine hee paying six shiling & eaight pence in siluer or Iron aCording to towne order Voted

at a lawfull towne meeting 15eth of iuli 1681 Ensigne goold and John houey are Chosen to be mesingares by the towne to goe to mr John danforth to Renew thare inuitacion of him to the work of the minestri but if he Refuse then tha ar to goe by the best in formation tha can gat to procure another to Com vpon trial a while voted





at a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 29 of July 1681 Thomas perkins Jur and Joseph Bixby Junr are Chosen to goe to Cambrig to pilot mr Capen to Topsfeild to Liut pebodyes house

Lliut pebody Deckon perkins Sargt Redington James How senr Mr Tho: Baker John Gould Sargt pebody Samuel Busell senr John Wilds John How Iacke estey Clarke are Chosen a Commity to discorse with Mr Capen to stay and preach here with vs at Topsfeild a while

at a lawfull towne meeting 23 gmo 1681 mi thomas baker was Chosen Comisionar to ofisiatate as the law directes about the singel Contre Rate with the select men

at a lawfull towne meeting the fift of saptember 1681 John how was Chosen to sarue on the Juri of triales naxt Counte Couart heeld at Ipswich  
voted

at a lawfull towne meeting the fift of saptember 1681 sargen Redington Jacob towne senr and John how or ani two of them ar Chosen to accompeni mr Capen to dorchester when hee goes to viset his frendes and to bring him agane if tha Can with his frendes Consent to Contene with vs in the ministri  
voted

at a lawfull towne meeting fift of saptember 1681. John houey isack este John how and Eprem dorman ar Chosen a comite to goe and vew how Conueneantli the towne may exchange two or three acres of land about bare hil plane with mr thomas backer he laing doune so moch more aioyning to our Coman land prouid he and his ares shall buld and keep hous and barn and a tenent on that land  
voted

at a lawfull towne meeting the 28 of saptember 1681 the town hath agreed to giue mr Joseph Capen sixte fiue pownd by the yeare twente pownd of it in siluer forti fiue pownd in other pay as namli in Corne porke and beefe and the vse of the parseneg house and land the towne doth leue it to mister Capen to Chuse whether he will Chuse this or to Chuse sauente fiue pound in Corant pay as Corne porke and beefe and the vse of the parseneg house and land  
voted

mister Capen hath made Coyce of sixte fiu pound twente of it in moni

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 4 of Noumber 1681 et was agreed that there should bee a Rate made to pay ye former Constabell Namely John How the fouer pounds nine shillings & two pene that was formerly Laid apon ye Gouenr: Symon Brodstreet esqr and ye selectmen are ordered to make et not with standing any former Town order  
Voted

at a Lawfull meeting of ye seectmen ye 20 of desember 1681: et was a greed by them to forwarne euenes mories from staying in Topsfeild but to goe forth with to ye plase wher he has bin a inhabitance for a boue six month: namely to nebeuwey and thay haue forwarned euenes mories out of ye Towne forth with and firther in case the said Euin Morris doth not departe the Towne forthwith: Ensigne John Gould and John How are Chosen to Complain to aThority that he may be setteled according to law

this 13 day of Jenewarey 1681 the seectmen mete and agreed With Samuel Symons to bild a pulpit for



vs here at Topsfeild.

the bargin is as foleth the said Samuel Symons is to bild a pulpit ten foot Long and if ye rome will giue way it is to belonger & for breth as ye rome will giue way it is to bee a wainshote pulpit and ye sd Symons is to doe all belongin to ye pulpit except the flore for ye bottom and finding bords and nailes ye Seelectmen are to find but to Lay ye flore and make ye stares ye said Symons is to doe it : and for to doe all ye worke about ye pulpit as is before menched ye select men in behalfe of ye Towne are to pay to Samuel Symons ten pounds and this worke is to be don and finished by ye 15 day of apriell next in sueing ye date a boue dated and ye pay that ye Seelectmen haue agreede ye Towne are to pay Goodman Symons in is one halfe in Corne at ye Contry price and ye other halfe in neate Cattell and if any body payes in money is to haue one thurd part of his proportion abated and ye seelectmen doe bind themselues Jontly to see ye Towne dos pay Goodman Symons as is aboue agreede : the time of payment is when ye worke is done as Witnes our hands ye day and yeare a boue dated.

Samuell Symonds  
frances pabody  
John Gould senr  
Isack Estey sen  
Samuell Howlett  
Ephraim Dorman

At a Lawfull meeting of ye seelectmen ye 31 of Jenewary 1681. William Nicklos & mr William perkins Junr and John Houey and Corpr William smith ar Chosen Tieceingmen for Topsfeild for ye yeare insueing.

at a lawfull meeting of ye select men the 31 of Januari 1681 wee the select men Rackened with william perkenes Junar and we find by his notes that ware past to him by the select men that hee hath payed the fifteene pound that hee the a boue saiyd perkenes was in dated to the towne for land he bought of the towne where by we doe a quite and discharg the sayed william perkenes of the fifteene pownd that hee was in datted to the towne as witnes cure handes the day and yeare aboue dated.

frances pabody  
John Gould  
Ephraim dorman  
Isack Esty  
Samuell Howlett

At a lawfull Towne meting the 7th of march 1681 or 82 Enssine John Gould is Chosen Clark for the yere ensewing. voted.

Lliut pebody Sargt Redington Deckon perkins Corpl Townes & John Gould are Chosen seelectmen to order the prudenciallyl afares of ye Towne for ye yeare in sueing. Voted

Daniell Redington is Chosen Constabell for Topsfeild for ye yeare insueing. Voated

John franch is Chosen Juereyman for trialls for this naxt Court hild at Ipswich.

it was Voated that John How & John Gould should prosikaute at Ipswich Court as ye seelectmen did before order tham to see and if thay Can Keepe euene mories from being a Townesman here at Topsfeild.

Voated

John franch & John Townes are





Chosen to be siruouers for ffences  
and hie wayes & bridges for this  
yeare insuing. Voated

The Towne has a greed by Voate  
that thay doe Consent to ye bargain  
the selectmen haue made with Sam-  
uel Symons about bilding ye pulpit.  
Voated

William Auerey enters his desent  
to ye Voat aboue wrighteen about ye  
pulpit.

The Towne has Agreed that euerey  
man that is Legaly warned to Come  
to ye hie wayes with a teme and dos  
niglict to Come shall bee fined six  
shiling a day for euerey nicelect and  
euerey man that is warned to Come  
to worke at the hie wayes and nicelect  
shall pay by way of a fine two shil-  
ings and six pence pr. day so  
nicelecting it shall bee Countied  
Legall waring and if there is two  
dayes betwene ye day of waring and  
ye day of working and the Seruay-  
cers are to goe & destraine for ye  
fines and giue it to ye men that dos  
ye worke or hie other men to  
worke in there rome. Voated

The Towne dos agree that any  
body that dos ring hoges shall haue  
three pence pr. hogs. hee finding  
rings that dos ring there hoges and  
is ordred by ye Towne to doe ye  
worke. Voated

Peter Shamway & James Watters  
is Chosen to ring hoges for this  
yeare. Voated

The Towne has Voated that ye  
old Towne Booke shall bee Tran-  
scribed in to ye new Towne Booke  
all that is needful to bee don & that  
is not all redy don Voated

Lliut pebody & John Gould are  
Chosen to Tranccribe all ye old  
Towne booke in to ye newe Towne  
booke as is Needfull to bee don  
Voated

The Towne has agreed that ye  
selectmen shall repair all breaches  
about ye meeting house & parsonig  
house & barne & to make seates in  
ye meeting house & mend ye wach  
house and all other prudencall a  
fares of ye Towne all at ye Towne  
charge prohibbeting the selectmen  
from aliniting any of ye Towne  
Common. Voated

Topsfeild April 11th 82. reckned  
with & receiued of Samuell Howlett  
Constabel fore Topsfeild: an 1678.  
the full some of 6 lb for my rate for  
ye yeare 78 I say receiued pr me  
Jeamr Hobbord.

this is a true Copey of mr Hub-  
bord Receiat as atested by mee.  
Dated ye 12 A[p]riell 1682

John Gould Clarke

at a lawfull meting of the select-  
men 20 of desember 81 upone con-  
sideration of our naigbour Samuell  
Bussell hath not a conueniant place  
in our meting hous as he is ordered  
to sit in tharefore we doe manifest  
our willingnes that he should sit in  
the seccond seate uoted also Leften-  
nent pebody is ordered to in form  
him uoted.

Ensigne John Gould and Isaac  
Easty senier are Chosen to goe to mr  
Jerymiah Hobbord to demand the  
key of the parssenidg house. uoted

The selectmen haue forbidden and  
doe by this present declare that there  
shall be noe raile timber feled tell ye  
generall Towne meeting with out or-



der from ye seclctmen and aney man  
has Libertey to take any raile timber  
that is apon ye Common that has bin  
feled one yeare or that dos Lie in a  
decaying Condition Voated

At a Lawfull meeting of ye Clect-  
men ye 27 of desember 1681 Corpl  
Jocab Townes and John How are  
Chosn and a pionted to rune ye Line  
for Deckan Tho: perkins which is  
betwene ye Common Land and Dec-  
kon perkins Land

a lawfull meeting of the select  
men 3 day of saptember 1681 John  
Robeson excapted of william per-  
kenes iuner pamaster for his sweping  
the meeting hous tel march naxt  
which som is twente flu pene by the  
selectmens ordering william perkins  
to pay him

a Rate for the minester for the  
yeare 1681 begining in nouember.  
mr william perkenes 01 08 5  
mr John brodstreet 01 12 4  
frances pabody 03 04 0  
Ensigne John goold 02 12 8  
sar John Radington 02 07 11  
decon thomas perkenes 02 07 0  
mr thomas baker 02 07 03  
wedoe mary towne 01 10 00  
sar Isack Commes 01 11 07  
Eproam dorman 01 02 06  
Cor Jacob towne 01 08 09  
thomas dorman 01 09 02  
John houey 01 15 05  
John willes 01 02 01  
Isack Este senr 01 03 00  
danell borman 01 08 09  
danell Clarke 01 00 0  
william auerell 01 00 06  
John pabody 01 10 00  
Joseph towne 01 02 03  
John Cortes 00 15 08  
mikall donel 00 13 05

mathew stanle	00 14 09
John how	00 13 00
John french	01 01 11
John prechet	00 15 02
william nickalls	0 15 06
samuell howlat	0 15 02
John Robeson	00 14 06
william perkins iunr	00 12 05
John nickalls	00 15 11
william hobes	00 13 06
phelap knite	00 10 04
tobiiah perkins	00 13 08
wedoe andros	00 08 00
John Ceuy (?)	00 11 00
thomas Ceuy (?)	00 07 04
petter shomay	00 07 03
Isack Este iunr	00 07 01
John towne	00 05 10
thomas towne	00 05 07
James watteres	00 09 04
Elisha perkins	00 08 09
Zecheus perkenes	00 09 08
thomas Caue	00 07 00
Joseph Este	00 07 09
William Wotson	00 06 00
Abraham Radington	01 05 0
John Cimbali	00 13 0
Robard stilles	00 15 0
samuel busell	01 00 0
william foster	00 15 0
Joseph pabody	00 14 0
danell black	00 08 0
Zecheus Corteus sen	00 14 0
Zecheus Corteus iunr	00 10 0
Joseph bigsbe iunr	00 05 0
John Ramsdell	00 06 0
sargen bigsbe	01 00 0
neamiah abit	00 15 0
James how senr	00 10 0
Isack foster	00 07 0
samuell pearle	00 08 0
thomas perle	00 09 0
abraham how	00 06 0
Robard smith	00 13 0
timothy perille	00 06 0





samuell simanes	01	06	0	this is a true Copy of mr Hubbort
william howlat	01	04	0	reecat as atested Dated ye 12
danell wood	00	06	0	Apriell 1682. pr mee John Gould
beniman bigesbe	00	05	0	Clarke.
thomas andros	00	18	0	At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye
Cor william smith	01	11	4	12 Apriell 1682 Mr Tho: Baker &
Isack borten	00	16	0	Corpr Jacob Townes & John How
John hunckens	00	08	0	are Chosen to goe & rune ye peram-
samuell stanlle	00	05	9	bulation Line with Salam men the
leftenet thomas putnum	00	04	2	seuenteene day of this Instant Apr-
mr Joseph porter	00	04	0	iell. Voated
beniman porter	00	11	0	The Towne has manifesd by Voate
mr John hale	00	01	6	that they will giue Zacheus Curties
Jonathan walcot	00	01	6	senr Clabords & shingels for to
william dodge senr	00	01	6	Clabor[d] & shingell his house pro-
Cor william Rament	00	01	6	vided et dos not amount to aboue
John Rament	00	01	6	fiuteene hundred of Clabbords &
thomas Rament	00	01	6	shingell. Voated
william dodge iuner	00	01	6	The Towne has agreed to giue full
Jonathan looke	00	16	02	power to mr Tho: Baker & Corprel
John lamson	00	02	10	Jacob Towne & John How to sue
John fisk	00	04	2	for a meseuer or for a true & exact
mathew perce	00	06	00	a Count of all ye Land any man or
danel andros	00	01	03	mene doe Clame within our bounds
samuell Cornish	00	02	0	and ye a for said men are impowered
Joseph hearick	00	00	9	to sue or other wise at any Court or
samuell Cimball	00	01	03	Courts and to prosiCate from Court
John poland	00	00	10	to Court tell they haue ended ye
Wedoe herick	00	00	9	Case: this is to Confarme any form-
samuell molton	00	00	9	er order relating to some of Salom
James frend	00	01	6	men that haue Land in our bounds
Joshua Ray	00	04	4	and whenham men or any that dos
Edman bishop	00	02	0	go apou our Commons. Voated
nikoles woodberi	00	02	0	At A Lawfull meeting of ye Seelect-
John black	00	01	0	men of Topsfeild the 4 day of May
Ephroom hearick	00	00	4	1682.
John Andreus	00	03	04	Mr Thomas Baker & Corpr Jacob
Joseph Andreus	00	03	00	Townes & John How are Chosen and

Topsfield Aprell 11th: 1682 Reck-  
ned with mr William perkins Junr  
Constabell for an 79 he hath payd  
mee the full rate of 60 pounds due  
for ye yeare 79 I say reseined  
pr mee Seremial Hobart

apionted & haue full power giue  
granted to them to settell a Line  
betwene Whenham and Topsfeild  
Ether by a greement Vnder both  
parties hands or by a Commitey  
Chosen by both parties or close to



bringe Whenham men by Law to settell a Line or any other way as the three aboue named men shall see beast for ye good of our Towne.

At A Lawfull meeting of ye seect-men the 4 day of May 1682 wee doe hereby giue full power to Mr. Thomas Baker Corpr Jacob Townes & John How to demand of aney or all the men of Salam or Whenham that Clame Land or Medoe in our Townes bounds, to show there rightes and titels to those Lands Clamed by them and allso there seuerall bounds to those Land Clamed by them and if any or all of them shall refuse or doe not make et Legally apere how thay Came by those Lands thay Clame to ye sattisfaction of ye aboue said Baker Townes & how: wee doe heareby giue them full power in ye Name of ye Towne to make trespas on those Land or sue the Clamers thereof and procecut the Law against them or any of them or to Compound and a gree with any of them as thay shall see meete and what so euer thay shall doe there in wee will owne and stand by and conferme as witnes our hands.

John Gould senr  
frances pabody  
Thomas Perkins  
John Redington

Wee Tho: Baker & Jacob Townes & John How not with standing what ye seect have ingaged to Vs in there order bareing date ye 4 May 1682 to bare Vs out in sueing or ruining a line with Whenham men doe intend noe other pay but what ye Towne have ingaged in there former order or any other that ye seectmen order dos giue Vs power to sue for as witness our hands

Thomas Baker  
Jacob townes  
John How

the 4 May 1682 there was a Rate made and Committed to Daniell Redington Constabell of Topsfeild a mounting to five pounds in silver for agants goeing to his Maieesty.

Reced June 9th from William Smith seuerall paminents Amounting to twenty Three pounds five shillings & nine pence in money & twenty foure pounds fonearteen shilings in Contrey pay being in full of Topsfeild proportion to fouer country Rate & A quarter I say reced pr Jame Russell Tresner.

This is a true Copey of ye Tresner Reseate this 20 day of June 1682 as atested by

Ephraim dorman  
John Gould Senr  
recorder for Topsfeild.

Will: Smith was Constabell for ye yeare 1680 for ye Dates as he has paid to ye Tresner as ye Tresner Resect dos make apere abou dated.

at A Lawfull Towne meeting the 20 June 1682 the Towne granted to mr Joseph Capen twelue eachers of vpland & medoe or swampe that will make medo: if mr Capen dos settell a mongst vs and except of ye ministerall ofeicese a mongest vs and if God by his prouedaunces dos take a way mr Capen from vs: then the Towne dos desier to haue the refusall of bying the Land paying mr Capen for what hee has Laid out oue ye Land as aney othher man or men shall doe.

Voated

The Towne dos Vnderstand by ye selectmen that Mr Capen will except





of a parcell of Land that was shone Mr Capen by ye seelectmen neere to John How and if Mr Capen dos not Like that percell of Land thin ye Towneh as Chosen a Commitey to goe & Looke one some other plase and make returne to ye Towne whare it is which hee shall haue and if it be not greetly to ye Townes damig but if Mr Capen dos except of ye plase showne him by ye seelectmen then ye Comitty are impowered to Lay it out whe. Mr Capen dos desier it to be don

Voated

Leuit pebody Sargt Redington Corpr Jacob Townes & John Wilds & John Gould Senr. are Chosen a Commitey to goe & Lay out twelue eachers of Land & swampe or medoe to Mr Capen when Mr Capen dos desier it & if Mr Capen dos Like ye plase that was shone him by ye seelectmen: and if Mr Capen dos not Like that plase then thay are to goe with Mr Capen to Looke one some other plase and make returne to ye Towne of ye plase then desired by Mr Capen according to Towne order.

Voated

20 2mo 1682

At a Towne meeting Walter faierfieeld & Deacon fliske are Appointed to Joyne with the selectmen to meett with Topsfeild men: on frydaye Come fornite and haue full power to settle the Lyne betwene Topsfeild & or Towne

that is a true Coppey taken out of the Towne booke of Wenham Attested Thos: fliske recorder to the Towne.

this is a true Coppey of Wenham men order as apered Vnder there recorder hand: as atested John Gould record-

er for Topsfeild this 24 June 1682.

Wee whose Names are Vnder Wrighteen being impowered by our Respectife Townes fidelied Topsfeild and Wenham meet to gather this fifth day of the thurd month 1682 to settell a deuisionall Line beetwixt our Townes: haue agreede that from a Littell tree neere Joseph Porters medow marked with T and W: and set about with a heeape of stones and from thence to a plump of mapels marked which standeth northward from the fore sd tree and standeth by Charles Gote medow and from thence towards the Reuere a Cording as the brooke runes Vntill it Cometh to an Iland by the Edge of a swamp Joineing to a peece of medow Called Pegdons medow and from the west point of ye sd Iland by the edge of ye medow tell it Cometh to ye West side of Pegdens medow a foresaid said and so in Cludinge ye said medow to Wenham to an Iland Caled hocellbarey Iland and from thence to the est end of ye sd Iland in Cluding all Walter ffarefeild medow to Whenham by a straight Line and this agreemant to bee a full settlement of a diuisionall Line betwene our Townes and in Confermation thereof wee haue set too our hands.

Tho: Baker

Tho: fliske

Jacob Townes

Walter ffarefeild

John How

Charles Gott

Tho: Patch

William fliske.

This is a true Coppey of ye originell Vnder there hands as thay bee now set downe as atested by me John Gould recorder for Topsfeild.

this is Compared with ye oregonall atested by me John How.

At a Lawfull meeting of ye seelect-



men the 12 of September 1682 the selectmen haue agreed to forewarne ye Widdoe Bridges out of Topsfeild with her Children and thay haue ordered the Constabell to goe and forwarne her from staying here in Topsfeild.

at A Lawfull meeting of The Towne of Topsfeild & the neighbors of ye Vilege Ipswich farme ye 25 september 1682 being meete togather to heare Mr Capen Answer did re-seuse his Answer and Voated et to be entred in ye Towne booke Voted

Corpr Will Smith is Chosen to sarue on ye Juerey of Trialls this Court now to be hild at Ipswich the Last tusday of this Instant month Voated

at a Lawfull meeting of ye free-men of Apriell 1682 Thomas Dorman is Chosen to sarue on the Grand Juerey for this yeare Voated

it was Voated that ye selectmen shuld goe and aduise with Mr Capen about his settelment here with Vs and what way Mr Capen would haue it don and so make returne to ye Towne Voated

25 September 1682

it Was Voated that ye selectmen shall goe and aduise with mr Capen which way mr Capen will haue the money Laid out that is subCribed to be giuene to mr Capen.

In Answer to ye motion of ye Church & Towne of Topsfeild and ye Neighbors of Rowly Village & Ipswich: Sept. 18: An Do 1682: Hauing taken into serious Consideration ye motion which hath been made by your selues to mee in order to ye worke of ye ministry among you, hauing also to ye Vtmost of my

Vnderstanding & abillity Eyed & obserued both ye word & ye prouidences of God in order thereunto: and Although I am greatly sensible of my inabillity and Insufficiency to so great a worke, yet seeing it is God who hath by his prouidence brought mee into ye same & not seeing my way Clear to break of from that Worke, Considering also ye Continuance of yor Lone & good Affection to mee hauing also been Earnest with that God (Wich directeth his in all their Wayes setteth bounds to ye habitations of all men) for guidance Counsell & Direction in this great Affair: Waighing all these things together I do Intend if God shall Continue me in this Worke by Assitting & inabling mee there Vnto to Continue With you in the Worke of ye Gospell in order to a farther settlment in God own tim VnLese anything shall Interuene Which shall bee accounted by Indiffarant & Impartiall Judgments to bee Just ground & sufficient Reason to obstruct any proceedings of that Nature.

Joseph Capen.

This is a true Copey of mr Capen Answer to ye Church & Towne of Topsfeild & ye Neighbours of Rowly Village & Ipswich as atested John Gould Recorder for Topsfeild.

I Thomas perkins senr see it Compared and I doe aserme this aboue to bee a true Copey of mr Capen answer as witnes my hand

Thomas Perkins.

Topsfeild, July 5, 1682

Receiued of Ensign Jno Gould & John How Constable of Topsfeild the Complement of a Rate of sixty pound for my Labours in ye ministry there in the yeare 77 I say Receiued





Per mee Jere Hobart.

This is a true Copey of mr Hubbord Reseate at atested by mee John Gould recorder for Topsfeild.

Witnes willam smyth  
Thomas Dorman

[the above 5 lines were afterwards interlined in the record with a blacker ink]

This a true Copey of mr Hobart Reseate as atested John Gould Recorder for ye Towne of Topsfeild: 60: 00: 00

Reseued June 9th 1682 from Daniell Redington in full of Topsfeild Rate for our agents: five pound in money.

Jame Russell Treasuer 05: 00: 00 this is a true Copey of ye Tresuer Reseate as atested John Gould Recorder for Topsfeild this 21 of Nouember 1682.

witnes Ephrin dorman.

at a Lawfull Towne meeting the 21 nouember 1682 John How is Chosen to answer at ye Court at Salom for Topsfeild for ther being Complained of about a defected bridges

Voated

Topsfd July 5th 82.

Receiued of William Smith senr Constabel the Complement of a rate of Twenty pounds, made for my Labour part of the yeare, 80 at Topsfeild. Isay receiued Per mee

Jere Hobart.

This is a true Copey Compared with ye orignall Vnder mr Hobart hand as atested by mee John Gould recorder for Topsfeild this 21 Nouember 1682. this is truly compared and ye oregonall actually don by mr Hobeat atasted by me John How.

At a Lawfull Towne meeting the

21 Nouember 1682.

The Towne has for ye full sattisficing of Mr Capen in respect of his good Answer to ye Church and Towne of Topsfeild and Neaighobers of ye Vilig & Ipswich farmes of his settlement amongst Vs in God one time in order to ye Worke of ye gospiell. The Towne dos ffuly Confurme ye Land granted to Mr Capen to bee his owne and if Mr Capen dos Lay out any Charge a bout ye Land ye Towne dos Looke at themselues. bound to pay Mr Capen for it as any man or men shall doe aCording to former Towne order if any thing by God prouedance shall hinder Mr Capen ordonation a mongst Vs.

Voated,

The Towne Confarmed the bounds Laid out by John How & John Gould Senr to Mr Hobart of a pond & three eackers of Vpland to stand good to Samuel Howlett & his assignes for euer.

Voated.

John Houey entred his Contrey desent to ye Voat about Whighteen

Wee Whose Names are Vnder Wrighteen being apointed by ye Towne to Lay out three eackers of Land that ye Towne granted to Mr Jere Hobart Wee accordingly haue don it. beginning at ye pond by a stompe with a heape of stones at it being one ye North sid of ye Land and soe Rueing Esterly to a stake with a heap of stones at it and from thence sowertly to a Littell blake oacke marked With a heape of stones at it and from that Westerly to fouer Littell whiat oackes marked with a heape of stones at it a Joining to ye pond and ye bounds of ye pond



from ye whiat oackes marked as before said all a Long as ye trees bee marked to ye stompe with a heape of stones as before said the Land Joying to ye pond ye whiate oackes and ye stompe with ye stones at them doe Jone to ye pond being the two fower bounds of ye three eackers of Land dated ye eight day of march 1677 or 78

John Gould,

John How,

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 21 Noumber 1682 The Towne has giuen power to ye select men to Let ye parsoniage house & barne & land belonging to it so as it may repare it selfe and not come to a Towne Charged to be repaired. Voated.

The Towne has Lefte it to ye selectmen adding Will: Auerey & Isacke Estey & John Wilds to ye selectmen for ye seateing of pepall in our meeting house. Voated.

A Rate deliuered to Daniell Redington Constable for ye Contry a mounting to twenty fiae pounds for ye yeare 1681 and a rate for ye Conuty trescary of fiae pounds in ye yeare 1682 and a rate for ye Contrey amounting to thurty pounds for ye yeare 1682.

There is a Towne Rate deliared to Daniell Redington Constabell a mounting to twenty fower pounds fiuteene shiling & apeney bareing date 26 desembr 1682.

the Towne detes that ye Constabell is to pay out of this rate is twenty fower pounds fiuteene shilings & apeney.

At a Lawfull Meeting of ye Selectmen ye 16 of Jenewary 1682.

The Selectmen haue agreede with Samuel Symons to set Vp a galerey at

ye West end of ye meeting hous of Topsfeild and ye said Symons Symons is to take pay of those that site in ye galerey for his Worke: & if any dos die or remoue and those that dos siruice them dos not Contin-eu Constant herers and Contributors to ye Word of God here at Topsfeild then it tis Left to ye maior part of ye Constant herers and Contributors to ye Word of God here at Topsfeild Whether thay Wiil by ye seats or giue them Liberty to sell to home thay see Good: also Samuel Symons has Liberty to alter ye stares that goes Vp into ye galerey now and to make one other pare of stares that shall goe into the galerey that ye sd Symons is to set Vp: and into ye galery that is already set Vp & if thay that sit in ye galery now will not bee at ye Charge of ye remoueing of ye stares With those yt dos sit in ye galerey that ye sd Symons dos set Vp then it tis to be put one a Towne a Count: also ye said Symons has Liberty to remoue ye Windoe that is ouer ye dore Wheare he is to set Vp ye galerey Leueing one Lite be Low

Thomas perkins

Jacob Townes

francies pebody

John Redington

John Gould

At a Lawfull meeting of ye seectmen ye 16 of Jenewr 1682

et was Voated by ye Seectmen and Contlued by them that John Gould should send worants for Will: Auerey sear & Mr Will: perkins & John Houey & Will: Nickles which wee haue Chosen for Tieningmen for this yeare to Come to ye said Gould house and take there oathes a Cording to





Law for wee haue apionted ye sd Gould to giue them there oathes as ye Law directes

Voated.

At A Lawfull meeting of ye selectmen ye 30 Jenewr 1682 or 83.

Wee haue Chosen Corpr Will: Smith to kepe ornorey at Topsfeild which wee doe desier this honered Court to point him a tirm for yt end also wee haueing our prinerall Towne meeting in cold wether wee doe a Low Corpr Smith to sell beer to ye Townsmen that day and to kepe a fier in ye hous that day for The Towne to remoue there meeting and if thay see Case demand

At A Lawfull meeting of ye Towne of Topsfeild the: 6: march 1682 or 83.

John Gould was chosen to kepe ye Towne booke for ye yeare insueing

Corpr William Smith is Chosen Constabell for ye yeare insueing for Topsfeild

Sergt Isack Comings is Chosen to serue one ye Jeruey of triall the next Court hild at Ipswich the Last tuesday of this Instant march

Mr Thomas Baker Isacke Estey Clarke Sargt Ephrom Dorman Samuel Howlett & John Gould Senr: are chosen selectmen for to order ye predechall afaiers of ye Towne for this yeare insueing: only wee prohibit them from giueing or selling or exchaing any of ye Townes Land

Daniell Clarke Coming into ye Towne meeting the 6 of march 1682 or 83 and saing that hee had noe wright in ye Coming

The Towne has Voated Goodman Clarke a Comminer

Voated

The Towne has a greed that Sam-

uel Symons shall set Vp a galerey at ye Este end of ye meeting house apon ye same Conditione that hee has a greed with ye selectmen to set Vp one galerey at ye West end of ye meeting house

Voated

The Towne has manisfeeted by Voate that thay doe desier Abraham Redington Senr to Come and site in ye fore secate and old Goodman Nicklos in ye seekond secate

Voated

The Towne has a greed by Voate to pepition ye Generall Courte for an axplanation of there grants of Topsfeild bounds

Voated

The Towne does by Voat declare that there shall bee appetion preferred to ye Honered Generali Court for there axplaiing of two grants vpon Court reckons one baring date 1643 the other in ye yeare 1658: this petition shall be preferred by Mr Tho Baker Jacob Townes and John How or whome thay shall desier to Joyne with them.

The Towne has granted to Daniell Clarke that Littell silipe of Land that hee has fenced in betweene his house and that house as peter Shamway did Liue in but ye sd Clarke is not to remoue his fence any forder apon ye Towne Common then it dos now stand

Voated

John Wilds & Elisha perkins are Chosen to be senernoyes for hie Wayes & ffences for this yeare

Voated

Wee Whose Names are Vnder Wrighteen Beeing Apionted by the Towne of Topsfeild to Lay out to Mr Capen twuele Eackers of Land it being Vpland and Swampe & medoe as is in ye Towne booke expresed



Wee accordingly haue don it: begining at astake standing upon the plaine next to Goodman How so Ruing norerly two and thurty rod to a Littell red oacke marked with a heape of stones at it: and from thence roining Esterly upon a straight Line to anelme marked With a heape of stones at it this Line is sixty rod Longe: and from the Elme upon a straight Line to a nash marked in the swampe neere Mr William perkins and this Line is thurty eaight rod Longe and from ye ashe tree upon a straight Line to the stake before named as Witnes our hands this 28th of febewary 1682 or 83

ffrances Pebody  
John Wilds  
Jacob Townes senr  
John Gould senr

At a Lawfull meeting of ye seect-men ye 13 March 1682 or 83

John Wilds is Chosen a tieingman and his presinkes is from Samuel Howlett & all ye ffaimelies there about by Deckon perkins & all about Daniell Clarke & Tobigha perkins is Chosen a tieingman & his presinkes is all ye ffaimeles ffrom Sargt Comings to John prichats to Mr Baker & to William Anerey John Robinson is Chosen a tieingman and his presinkes is all a Longe from Corpr Townes Vp to John Gould John Nicklas is Chosen a tieingman ff all ye ffaimeles one that sid ye riuer hee Lienes one.

At a Lawfull meeting of ye seect-men the 23 of Apriell 1683 Lliut Pebody & Mr Thomas Baker & John How are Chosen to meete With ye Gentellmen that Come from Ipswich at William Howlett one the twenty

forth of this Instant month to settell a Line betwene Ipswich and Topsfeild.

I John How doe acknolig that I haue Reseued of Lliut pebody the ffouer pounds nince shilings and two pence that ye Towne did a gree by Voat to pay mee for so much as they had rated ye Gouner Symon Bradstreet Esqr for and ye Gounr not paying of it ye Towne did pas a Voat the forth of Nounber 1681 that I should haue it in a Towne rate: a Towne rate being made for that end and deliuered to Lleut pebody I doe acknolig that I haue Reseued the hole some as is aboue expresed as Witnes my hand this 23 of Apriell 1683

John How.

Witnes John Gould Recorder for Topsfeild.

At a Lawfull meeting of ye Towne of Topsfeild the 4 May 1683

Sargt John Redington is Chosen Ganieuery man for this yeare for Topsfeild.

At A Lawfull Towne meeting the 4: May 1683 the Towne has giuene power to Lliut pebody & Mr Thomas Baker & John Wilds & Sargt Dorman to git Ipswich men to take of the Conditions that is in there grant to us and then to settell a Line With Ipswich for our Towne Voated

there Was a rate made by Vartey of a Worant from ye Contrey Trescrur of two pound seenteene shilings & a Leuene pence to be paid in monney for Vnimproued Land his warrant did bare date Boston 27th March 1683 & it was made ye 9 March 1683 and deliuered to ye Consrabel of Topsfeild





there Was a rate made by Vartey of a Warrant from ye Contrey Treserur of ten pounds two shilings to be paid in money for our agants and other neseray Charges for ye Contrey and delieured to ye Constabell the 9 May 1683: the Treseuer Warrant did bare date Boston March 27th 1683.

At a Lawfull meeting of ye Seectmen of Topsfeild ye 23 of July 1683

Whereas Wee did Resene a Wrihteen from ye Seectmen of Salam to apiont two men to meete som men thay Chose at Liut Thomas putnam one frieday next to Lay out a Contrey hie Way: betwene Salam & Andeuer

Wee haue Carefully Looked into ye Law and Wee find that Wee haue noe power to Chose men for that end for ye Law dos Say ye Townes shall doe it: in Lone Wee have Chosen two men to Come to meete yu to tell yu ye reson Whie Wee Could doe noe more at this time and ye two men that are Chosen is Lliut Tho: Baker & John Gould

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 22 of agust 1683

John ffranch Was Chosen a Commissioner to Joyne with ye seectmen to take a List of all male persons and other estates as ye Law drects and to Carey it to ye shere Towne and to Joyne With ye Commissioner there as ye Law drects. Voted

At a Lawfull meeting of ye seectmen of Topsfeild the 28 agust 1683

There being great Complaints Coming to Vs about many pepell Letting there rames rume apon ye Common to ye great damage of the breed

of sheepe in or Towne and ye owners of the rames Will take noe Care to prsent ye damige that Comes by rames ruing one ye Common at Liberty Therefore to prsent forder damige by rames: ruing one ye Common it tis hereby declared by ye seectmen that that man or men yt dos not fforth with take Vp his ram or rames from ruing at Liberty one ye Common or one any open ground yt is not inclosed shall forfite ye one halfe of ye said ram to him yt take ye sd ram Vp and ye man yt take Vp ye ram is to Crie ye ram a Cording to Law and if noe owner aperc Within ten dayes then he yt take up ye ram has Liberty to kille ye ram or to sekuere him from doinge damige as before expresed and if ye owner dos aperc Within one fortnight ye one halfe of ye ram so taken Vp to ye owner and ye other halfe to ye man yt tooke him Vp and if noe owner aperc within ye time before expresed then one halfe of ye ram so taken Vp to ye Ves of ye Towne and there is noe Liberty for rames to rume one ye ground Vninclosed from ye tenth of July to ye twelfth of Nouember and any man has Liberty to take Vp any ram so ruing within this time and this order to stand in force tell ye Towne see Case to make some other order about rames or ye seectmen see good to repeall it. Voated

Apriell 22 1664.

Acording to the order of the Honoured Generall Court May the Seuenth 1662 Wee Whos names are hereunto subscribed ruinge the deuiding Line between Salam and Topsfeild. Wee rume from Sal'm meeting house six miles apon playne ground



(by traus) something more Westerly then the north and by West poynt Wheare wee set a stake and erected a heape of stones, there standing a White oak a bout two or three pole more southerly of it marked with S T and from that heape of stones Wee first rune Eastward Circularly and marked a Whitoake with S T and so continuinge the Line With marked trees Vntill Wee Came at Bishops meow to a red oake marked at the north end of Bishops greater part of meadow and so runinge betwene the two meadows ouer Bishops brooke to a White oake and from thence to Long Sponge almost all the way through it by maples and one wallnut tree marked in the Sponge from thence crose Thomas putnams meadow to a red oake marked on the east side of it and so ouer the hill Through ffarmer porters meadow Vnto a Littell Whit oake marked with T S which stands on the east side of the high way by the forde ouer the brooke Which is Commonly Called stoney brooke from thence it runes cross on other parcel of ffarmer porters meadow on the north end of the Long hill which Lyeth on the south east of the said meadow by a marked Wallnut tree and from thence to Wennum Line Which Line from the heape of stones is about two mille and one halfe.

Then Wee began at the first heape of stones and ran towards the south east (still keping six milles from Salam meeting house) Wee rune ouer the northeast end of Maior Haitherns hill about sixty pole by estemation from his meadow from thence runing by a marked tree ouer part of Mr Currins farne Crose by the sid

of a Sponge of meadow Which Lyeth Vpon Ipswich riuer neare thurty pole from the riuer, and from thence the Line runs be Low the side of the steepe hill by the side of the meadow Vnto a marked pine and from that a Longe in that narrow Sponge of meadow Vnto an other pine marked With S T standing in a Litell pine swampe on the east sid of the Litell brooke about two pole from it, from thence it ran through Henry ffelps feeld on the east sid of his house Vnto agreat red oake marked with S T standing a bout ten pole Westward of Andeuer road to Salam and from thence to a pine forward in the Line and so to a duble Whiat oake marked as before Which stands on the south of a Littell meadow fenced in and from that to redding Line soe that this South West Line is a bout four milles from the heape of stones, all Which markes was faithfully and exactly wrought acording to the rulles of art and the Whole bounds of Salam as now wee haue rune it is full six miles from Salam meeting hous

Thomas Noyes

Jonathan Danforth

this was entred by Voate & order of ye Selectmen of Topsfeild in to there Towne booke

This is a true Copey Compared With the originall as atested by mee John Gould recorder for Topsfeild

at a Lawfull meeting of ye Town of Topsfeild the 2 day of Nouember 1683

the men that ye Towne did impower to sue and petition for the Lands that ware by Salam granted in or bounds haue don it and Come to ye





Towne for there waiges and their being but a small aperance the Towne sees good to a Jorne there Towne meeting tell ten aCleke in ye morn ye twenty of this Instant

At a Lawfull Towne meeting hild upon a Jorment ye 20 Noumber 1683

The Towne did manifest by Voate that the three men namely Lliut Thomas Baker Corpr Jacob Townes and John How shall haue ye one halfe of ye Land that thay doe recouer for ye Towne as fast as thay doe recouer it Leauing one halfe to ye Towne all wayes as fast as thay doe recouer it and thay are impowered to goe one With perticklers sutes as fast as thay can tell thay haue recovered all as is ye Townes a Cording to Generell Court order and ye Land that shall be recovered by this about named men shall be eaquely defied betwene ye Towne and ye about named men Eaquelly both for quanty & qualety and there halfe shall be for there satisfaction for all there disbursments a Cording to Towne order

Wee Whose names are Vnder Wrighteen doe fully Consent to & With ye Towne that ye Towne shall haue ye forst profer of bying our parts of Land and if Wee doe sell it the True meing is to any inhabitanes of or Towne this is a full agrement with the three men and ye Towne

Lliut Thomas Baker

Corpr Jacob Townes

John How

This is a true Copey Compared with ye three about named men Consent there hands being set to it as it tis now in ye Towne Booke as atested P mee John Gould recorder for Topsfeild

Reced June 12th 1683 from Daniell Redington of Topsfeild in full of said Townes proportion to fiae Rates ye some of thurty fiue pounds fouer shilings in Contry pay & twenty pounds two shilings in money

P Jame Rusell Tresuer

This is a true Copey Compared with ye Tresuer reseate as atested John Gould Recorder for Topsfeild

Thomas Baker

This 22th of desember 1683

Receued of Daniell Redington of Topsfeild in full of his County rate in ye year 82 ye some of fiue pounds one shilings I say Resued P mee Robart Payne Tresuer 82

This is a true Copey Compared with ye Tresuer Reseate as atested P mee John Gould recorder for Topsfeild

Samuel Howlett

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 25 desember 1683 John Gould senr and John Wilds are Chosen to denide the Land by Whenham Line with Lliut Baker & Corpr Townes and John How that peice of Land as ye abouted named men did git of whenham men forder then or Line did runc before

Voated

At a Lawfull Towne meeting ye 25 desember 1683 The Towne did giue mr Capen Liberty to set Vp a seeate at ye Vpper end of ye pulpit

Voated

Wee doe hereby declare yt wee are Vtterly Vnwillig to yeeld ether to a Rasignation of the Charter or to anything yt shall be equeualent there Vnto Whereby ye foundation there of should be rased.

This Was Voated by or Towne and ye Inhabatiance about Vs yt dos



Vesaly Come to or meetings Voated  
Wee Whoes Names are Vnder  
Wrighteen doe hereby declare that  
Wee are desierous yt all humbell  
appecation be made to his Maiesty  
yt Wee may still inioy or priuilliges  
acording to charter

John How  
William perkins  
John Robinson  
John Wilds  
John Townes

Wee being Chosen by ye Towne  
to deuide aparcell of Lland that Was  
obtained by Lliut Baker Corpr Townes  
& John How by ye settlement of a  
Line Whit Whenham as will apeere  
in ye Towne Booke Vnder there  
hands that is a Commitey Chosen by  
Topsfeild to settell ye Lines betwene  
Whenham & Topsfeild and ye Towne  
of Topsfeild did grant to Liut Baker  
Corpr Townes & Jhn How ye one  
halfe of ye Land for there paynes &  
Cost thay haue bin out about it and  
chose John Gould senr & John Wilds  
to goe and deuide the Land With ye  
three aboue named men Which Wee  
haue done as foletth, the fforst Line  
begines at Joseph porters medoe and  
ye bounds settled by Whenham and  
Topsfeild next Whenham Caesway  
to a bunch of mapels at ye brooke  
shall remaine to ye Towne & ye  
brooke the bounds ye next marked  
bunch of maples at a Litell Iland at  
ye end of Sargt Townes medow and  
the swamp one ye East side of the  
brooke the swamp and medow and  
Hucklebuerey Iland a Cording to  
agreement With Whenham shall Re-  
maine to Lliut Baker Corpr Townes  
and John How this is a deuision a  
greed apon and settled by Vs:

Dated ye 28 desember 1683

John Gould senr  
John Willd  
Thomas Baker  
John How

Lliut Baker & John How signe in ye  
behalf of Corpr Townes as atested  
John Gould recorder for Topsfeild

Daniell Redington Constabel Came  
to mee ye the 4th march 8 $\frac{3}{4}$  and  
brought mee Reseates of ye pertick-  
ler somes as he was ordered by the  
seectmen to pay out of a rate made  
and Deliuered to him to gather Vp of  
twenty fouer pounds and ffineteene  
shilings and a peney and ye reseates  
Vnder the pertickler persons hands  
as it did apeere so that ye Constabell  
is fuly discharged of that rate of 24lb  
15s: 01 d

I say this is true as atested by  
mee John Gould Recorder for Tops-  
feild

at a meting of the salactmen the  
18 of september 1677:

in Relation to the Law Concerning  
tithing men: we haue maed Chois:  
of mr Willyem Perkins Sauer and  
Daken Thomas Perkins and Sargent  
Edman Town and Willyem Niquells  
as tithing men for Topsffeld: mr  
Willyem Perkins is to in spact thos  
ffolowing ffamelis, Left francis Pa-  
body: mr Thomas Baker Thomas  
Dorman willyem Averell Daniell Bor-  
man Ephrim Dorman John Houye  
John Prechet: Isack Comins:

Daken Perkins is to in spact thos  
ffolowing ffamelis sargt: John Rad-  
ington John Willd John franch  
Samuell Howlet Micall Donell John  
Comins Willyem Howlet: mr John  
Brodstreet Sargt Edman Town is to  
in spact thos ffolowing ffamelys En-  
sign John Gould John Curtis Mathow  
stanly James Watters Joseph Town





Isack Easty Jacob Town John Robi-  
son Daniell Clark John How Lak  
wakliin willyem Perkins Willyem  
Niquells is to inspect thos ffolowing  
framelys John Niquells Thomus  
Kaney willyem Hobb Philip Knight  
John Gould  
frances pabody

Seuerall Rates made and deliuered  
to Corpr Smith Constabell barcing  
date 14th Jenewary 1683

to one Rate for ye County at 08-15-00  
to one Singell Country rate at 08-15-  
00

to one rate & a halfe for ye Contry  
in money & depytes wages which  
all dos Come to 22-01-06

one ministerys rate which Comes to  
65£ one thurd of it money 65-00-00  
all thes rates are to bee payed in  
yt yeare 1683

At a Generall Court of Election  
held at Boston 10th day of third  
month 1643

Whereas the Court holden at Boston  
the 4th 7m 1639 there Was Certaine  
Lands Lying neere Ipswich Riuer  
granted for a Village Either to sume  
of the Inhabitants of Salam or Same  
of the Inhabitants of Ipswich Whoe  
haue farmes neere Vnto the said Land  
to be inioyed by thoes Whoe first  
Settled a Village there thay boath pre-  
pounding for it to gethier: how euer  
the order mentioneth, only Salam  
inhabitants, and for as much as the  
inhabitants of Ipswich haue for  
neere this two yeare procured &  
maintained one to dispence the Word  
of God Vnto them, Which thay ind-  
tend to Continue: It is therefore  
ordered & granted that Mr John En-  
decott, & the said Inhabitants of  
Ipswich Viz Mr Bradstreet, Mr Sy-  
monds Mr Whittingam Mr William

paine Mr Robert payne & Such other  
of Ipswich, or Salam as thay shall  
assosiate to themselues, shall haue  
Liberty to setle a Villadge neere the  
said Riuer of Ipswich. as it may bee  
most Convenient for them, to Which  
the afore said Land shall be Long  
Vizt all that Which Lyeth neere the  
said Riuer not formerly granted to  
any Towne or pson prouided that any  
of the Inhabitants of Salam, Whoe  
haue farmes neere Vnto the said  
Land now granted shall haue Liberty  
for one yeare next Coming to Joyue  
With the said Village, & to haue  
theire equeall & proportionable priu-  
iledg in the same. And Wheareas  
Mr Bradstreet hath Liberty granted  
him to take his farme of fve hundred  
acres in the next Convenient place,  
that is fitt for a farme. to that Which  
is granted to Mr John Endecott  
Which may proue preiudiciall to the  
said Village, It is therefore ordered  
that the said Mr Bradstreete shall  
haue Liberty to take, his said farme of  
fve hundred acres in any other place  
not yett granted to any Towne or  
pson not prejudiciall to any plantation  
made or to be made Which When  
hee hath so done & manefested the  
same to this Court his aforesd grant  
shall forth With be Voyd & the sd  
Lands shall be Long to the Village  
before mentioned to be disposed of  
by the Inhabitants there of for the  
good of the Whole and if Salam &  
Ipswich shall not agree before the  
next Court about a peell of meddow,  
now desired by Salam, to be to  
Whenham, then the Court shall deter-  
min it

That this is a true Coppy taken out  
of the Courts Book of Records is  
atested by Edward Rawson Sectary



Vera Copia of yt Coppy taken by mee

Hilliard Veren Clerk

This is a true Coppy taken of yt Coppy by mee John Gould recorder for Topsfeild.

At a Generall Court held at Boston the 19 october 1658

In answer to the petition of the Inhabitants of Toppsfeild It being put to the question Whether, the Lands of Salam shal be accompted to Run from the meeting house six miles into the woods & noe more, Alwaies provided that the pticular psons to Whome Lands haue beene granted by Salem Within Topsfeild Line shall be Long to the proprietors The Court resolves this question in the affirmatiue.

This a True Coppy taken out of the Courts booke of Records as atested Edward Rawson Secterey

Copia Vera of that Coppy atested Hilliard Vrin Clerk

This is a true Coppy of that Coppy taken P mee John Gould Recorder for Topsfeild.

At A Generall Court hild at Boston 10th of october 1683

In Answer to ye petition of Thomas Baker Jacobe Townes and John How of Topsfeild for explanation of an order of Court made 19th of october 1658 reffering to Lands granted by Salem With in Topsfeild bounds Vpon A full hearing of the Case and What hath bine alleadged both by Salem and Topsfeild the Court doe Judge that the aforesaid order referrs only to such Lands as were granted by Salem before the tenth of may 1643.

That What is aboue Written is A true Copie taken out of the Courts

Records Atested Edward Rawson Sectrey

a Verie Copia of that Coppy as a tested John Gould Recorder for Topsfeild.

At A Lawfull Meeting of ye Towne of Topsfeild the 4th of March 1683 or 84

John Gould Senr is Chosen to kepe the Towne Bookes of reckords for this yeare in sueing Voated

Corpr William Smith is Chosen Constabell for this yeare insueing for Topsfeild

William Auery Senr is Chosen to Sarue one the Jeuerrey of trialls the next County Court to beholden at Ipswich the Last tuesday of this Instant March

ssargt Redington Corpr Jacob Townes John Houey Thomas Dorman John Gould Senr is Chosen Seelectmen to order the prudanciall afares of the Towne for this ensueing yeare prouied thay shall not disspose of any of ye Townes Land

at A Lawfull Towne meeting of the Towne of Topsfeild the 4th march 1683-84 Mr Tobigah perkins & Joseph Estey are Chosen seruayers for hie wayes for this insueing yeare Daniell Redington & Samuel Standley are Chosen fence Veueres for this Insueing yeare

Whereas the Towne had formerly giuen Lliberty to Liut pebody to set Vp a mell and to floe so much of the Townes Common as Was needfull for a mille (this Towne act not being found in ye Towne Booke) the Towne dos now by Voat declare that thay doe againe grant Lliberty to ye said pebody to float soe much of the





Townes Common as is for ye good wrighteen  
and Vese of ye mille so Long as ye  
mill doth stand and grind for ye  
Towne Voated

The Towne has Chosen Lliut Pebody & Lliut Baker and John Wilds & Sargt Dorman to rune and Settell a Line With Ipswich men betwene or Towne & Ipswich only the Towne dos probabet the aboue named men from Consenting to any thing that may be to or Townes damige in Relation to making or Towne tresspasers in or Cattell Coming into the bounds of Ipswich Voated

John Honey Thomas Dorman & John Gould Senr are Chosen a Comitey to Lay out a Countrey hie way from Rowely to Topsfeild Voated

The Towne meeting is a Jorned to ye 18 of this instant march.  
Mr Capen

Whare as yu are pleased to moue something ConCorning the prodouce of the parsoning which the Towne Jenerally say thay did not expect but seauerall say that yor selfe said yu would haue nothing to doe with it apon which the seectmen haue Leet it for twenty shillings a yeare. The Towne desiers to know yor mind sartin in that thing and if yu doe wholly renounce the parsonige the Towne will then answer yor Request in adding six pounds to yor Salery for providing yu slier wood by the yeare Leauing our frinds of the Vilige and ffarmers to doe what thay will in that respect Voated

William Auerey Sener enters his Contrey desent to ye Voat aboue

I do hereby declare my rediness & Willingness to accept of ye aboue mentioned proposall of ye addition of six pounds to my salery for ye precuring of my slierwood and do also hereby renounce ye use of ye personage Which I Vnderstand is by yor selues Concluded that I did expect

Your Saruant Joseph Capen

This is a true Copey of What Mr Capen did send to ye Towne the 18 of March 1683 or 84 as atested by mee John Gould

recorder for Topsfeild

Wetnesis

John How

Ephraim Dorman

At A Lawfull Towne Meeting of the Towne of Topsfeild the 22 Apirell 1684

The Towne made Chose of Lliut pebody Lliut Baker Corpr Townes John Wilds Sargt Dorman John Honey & John How to settell a Line With Ipswich betwene Ipswich & Topsfeild and any fouer or five of them agreeing With those men that Ipswich shall Chose for yt end shall stand and thay haue full power to agree With Ipswich for thare settlement of a Line Which hath neuer bin don sence Wee ware a Towne Voated

The Towne has agreed that a deputy yt goes to ye Generall Court shall haue but ffuteene shillings pr weeake in Countrey pay also thay haue a greeed yt a deputy shall goe to ye Generall Court apon ye Conditions aboue said

Voated



# The Howletts and Clarks.

## TWO OLD TOPSFIELD FAMILIES.

By MARIETTA CLARK.

It goes without saying that, in examining the records of the past, the farther back we go, the more misty and meagre do they become. Just as we fancy that we are on the verge of a discovery, some important document is missing, making a broken link in our chain of evidence to be repaired as best we may.

The first items bearing upon the subject in hand, the settlement of our farm and its immediate vicinity, I have copied from the Ipswich records.

"Mr. Appleton, Sargeant Howlett, John Perkins and Thomas Scott were appointed to assist the lott layers in laying out Mr. Dudleys, Mr. Bradstreets and Mr. Saltonstalls farmes before the fourteenth of May, 1637."

"1642, Mr. Bartholemew, George Giddings, Jo Whipple, Sargeant Howlett have full power to lay out the land to Mr. Rogers which he bought of Mr. Tuttle."

That this land was laid out we infer from the fact that Ensigne Howlett was credited by the town of Ipswich for "five days about Mr. Rogers," but we are left to get an idea of its whereabouts as best we can from the following grant to Mr. William Payne:—"Also a farme granted unto him at the New Meddowes, one pt of it lying beyond the farme granted to John Webster, having a swamp on the North, a brook

towards the northwest, the river towards the south, pt. of the meddowes lying on the south syde the river. The other pt. of the said farme lyeing nearer the towne by Mr. Whithinghams bounds by the land of Symon Broadstreet and the land of Mr. Whithingham toward the south and southwest, by the land of Mr. Samuel Symonds towards the northwest, a poynt coming to the four mile brook, having the land of Mr. Broadstreet on the east and the land of Mr. Roggers toward the northeast. The whole farme containing four hundred acres more or less. To have and to hold and to enjoy all the sayd premises unto the sayd William Payne and to his heirs forever.

Dated the 20th of the 11th 1647."

Another record gives us a little more light on the location of this land.

"Voted that Mr. William Payne shall have thirty pounds paid him for his farme lyeing beyond Gravelly brook, at or before this time twelvemonth, or else the said William Payne is to have the little Neck. Also the barnes and his two acres of ground at the little Necke is to be prized by indifferent men, and paid to him besides his thirty pounds, one chosen by the towne and one by Mr. Payne, and if they agree then they to choose a third man.

At the general meeting the 22





(12.) 1649."

At the same meeting.

"Mr. Nathaniel Roggers is possessed by the grant of the towne of a farme at the New Meddowes containing three hundred acres, bounded by Broadstreet his farme on the south, Mr. Saltonstalls farme east the common north and northeast, Mr. William Payne northeast to enjoy all the several grants to him and his heirs forever."

We next find the following copied into our own records:

"At a general Towne meeting (Ipswich) Feb ye 9th mnth. 1651."

"Granted to Ensigne Thomas Howlett six acres of Upland to be joined to the farme which hee bought of Mr. Roggers wheare the said Ensigne have built his house."

"This particular (with five others) above are true coppies taken out of the Towne book of Ipswich as they are there recorded."

"John Brewer, Clarke of ye towne of Ipswich." "Aprill 23. 1684"

"Thes are True coppies of these Copies as atested b me. John Gould, Recorder for Topsfield."

"Witneis to the Copeyes as they be presented to Us under ye Clarke of Ipswich hands besides or Clarke hand."

John How William Smith, jr.

I could find no other record save that given in this "copey" of the "farme" which Ensign Howlett "bought of Mr. Roggers." There was no deed; the transaction was not mentioned anywhere else. We are left to learn the location of that land in a somewhat imperfect way from subsequent papers. But the six acres granted by the town we are

able to identify almost certainly with the land extending from the mill-pond to the schoolhouse, bounded on one side by the schoolhouse woods, on the other by the highway as "wee go to Ipswich," now owned and occupied by the Perkins and Averill families. The house itself was located in the field behind Mrs. Perkins' house, on the side of a steep hill rising from the mill pond where a heap of stones still marks the site of the cellar, and a solitary birch stands sentinel over it. Mr. John P. Perkins, who has reached the age of seventy-five years, tells me that in his boyhood this cellar was open, and was afterwards filled with stones by some members of his family.

Ensign Howlett and his family were so closely identified with Topsfield affairs and so prominent in its history, that I have made some effort to learn all I could about them. The name is not now found in town, but many of his descendants are still living here. Among them are included the Cummings, Perkins, Peabody, Clarke, Towne and Peterson families.

I would that I might take you into a picture gallery, and present to you these first settlers as they looked in ye olden time, that we might learn something of their characters, their feelings, their sorrows and their joys. "We tread the paths their feet have worn," we still enjoy the fruits of their labors; but two centuries of time is not to be easily bridged over.

It is said to be the fashion now to trace ancestry back to England. I have not attempted to do this for



the Howlett family, but by what seemed to me a curious coincidence I chanced to be reading Carlisle's life of Cromwell at the time that I was most interested in this subject, and I found in it the following paragraph:

"Olivers tutor in Cambridge, of whom legible history and I. know nothing, was Magister Richard Howlett, whom readers must fancy a grave ancient Puritan and Scholar, in dark antiquarian clothes and dark antiquarian ideas, according to their faculty. The indubitable fact is that he, Richard Howlett, did in Sidney Sussex College, with his best ability, endeavor to infiltrate something that he called instruction into the soul of Oliver Cromwell and of other youths submitted to him: but how, of what quality, with what method, with what result, will remain extremely obscure to every one."

The relationship of Richard Howlett to our Ensign Thomas is also "extremely obscure." We can only imagine that there might have been a connection between them.

The first record of Thomas Howlett we find in Ipswich.

"1633 March, John Winthrop and twelve others commence a settlement here, April 1st. The Court of Assistants forbid any to reside in this place, except those already come. Then follows a list of them, viz.—Mr. John Winthrop Jr., Mr. William Clerk, Robert Coles, Thomas Howlett, John Biggs, John Gage, Thomas Hardy, William Perkins, Mr. John Thorndike and William Serjeant. Three are wanting to make up the number. June 11th Thomas Sellan has permission to become an inhabi-

tant."

"1636. Granted to Thomas Howlett a house lot where his house now stands and which is now in his possession."

"1641. Thomas Howlett was a commoner in Ipswich." He is called in the early records "Sargent" Howlett. This title was probably gained in service against the Indians.

"Dec 4, 1643. It is agreed that each soldier for their service to the Indians shall be allowed 12 d. a day (allowing for the Lords day in respect of the extremity of the weather) and the officers dubble." Sargeant Howlett was one of the officers so I suppose he received "dubble."

He was continually employed by the town to run lines, lay out lands, etc. The following record will serve as an example of many similar ones.

"Feb. 10, 1640. Mr. Hubbard, Mr. William Payne, Mr. Tuttle, Sargeant Howlett and John Gage are chosen by the town and full powers given to them on the behalf of Ipswich to run the lyne and make the bounds between Salem and Ipswich."

"Sargeant" Howlett afterwards became Ensign. "1645. Youth from ten to sixteen years are to be exercised with small guns, half pikes, bow and arrows. Thomas Whitingham is confirmed as Lieutenant and Thomas Howlett as ensign of the company."

Ensign Howlett was an elder in the church. 1648. "Upon complaint of Major general Denison the elders Ensign Howlett, George Giddings and Thomas Bishop were appointed to settle the trouble about





his land."

In 1648 he was selectman of Ipswich. Ipswich, Feb. 27, 1658. "The seven men chosen for the year were Major Denison, Robert Lord, James Howe, Ensign Howlett, John Andrew jun., John Knolton, Thomas Treadwell."

I found in Felt's History of Ipswich an interesting explanation of this term "The Seven Men." When a church was gathered in New Haven in 1639, the Rev. J. Davenport directed the brethren "to select eleven of their most godly men as a nomination for church pillars, that there might be no blemish in church work." These were to choose seven among themselves, because it is read in Proverbs "Wisdom hath hewn out her seven pillars." I think the number of our selectmen will have to be increased.

"Here we very probably have the reason for the number of eleven and seven men as contained not merely on the records of Ipswich but on those of other ancient towns. So closely connected were the civil and ecclesiastical concerns of our ancestors, so fixed were they in having no person hold any social trust, unless a professor of religion, that they would not hesitate to apply the same distinctive names to their chief men, as officers of the community, which they bore in relation to the church. There can be little doubt that the selecting of such individuals originally gave rise to the term select, as applied to the superintendents of town affairs. Not a few expressions which we often use without tracing them to their source, were once associated in other minds

with important occasions. At first the selectmen were elected for three months. They continued to be seven till 1823, when they were five. The next year and afterwards to 1841 they were restored to the old number."

This, you will remember, was in Ipswich.

"Thomas Howlett was a deputy to a General Court held at 'Newe Towne' May 6, 1635. He represented Ipswich."

These are the principal records of Thomas Howlett in Ipswich. In 1651 or thereabouts we find him located on the hillside by the brook. After that time whatever abilities he may have had, seem to have been given to the service of the infant town of Topsfield.

In the history of Essex County, Ensign Howlett is given as one of the selectmen of Topsfield in 1659; but I was unable to find any such record previous to 1661. I give it entire.

"At a lawful towne meeting the 14th of the 10th month 1661 The inhabitants of ye towne hath made choyce of Insigne Howlet, Francis Peabodye and John Reedington, they are chosen for selectmen for the year folowing to order the prudential afares of the towne and to settle the bounds of the towne between Salem and Topsfield and also to settle the bounds between the country and us. and also where they shall see any wrong don to the towne by any they have power to rectifie it by sute or otherwise. Voted."

Ensign Howlett was a commoner in Topsfield in 1661. He was the first deputy from Topsfield to the



general court in Boston, session of 3d Aug., 1664. begins about twenty-five miles farther up the country, issuing forth a pleasant pond. But soon after, it betakes its course through a most hideous swamp of large extent, even for many miles, being a great harbour for bears. After its coming forth from this place, it groweth larger by the income of many smaller rivers, and issues forth into the sea, due east against the Island of Shoales, a great place of fishing for our English nation."

"At a lawful Towne meeting ye 9th of July 1667 The Inhabitant of ye Towne hath left to ye discretion of the Selectmen or major part of them to lay out a hie way from ye common ground which lye on the south side of mile brook over against Goodman Dorman and sargt. Peabodye to Ensign Howletts brooke notwithstanding any former Towne order whatsoever."

This is the first record which I have found of Howletts brooke called by that name. You see by this record that Ensign Howlett was also a deacon. That he was suitable for this office we gather from the following: "1644

March 2, 1668-9. "It is also ordered and agreed upon With Ensign Thomas Howlett that they will make and maintain a bridge over ye brooke by Ensignes house in ye way as wee go to Ipswich ye one half to be done by the towne and the other half by ye said Ensigne."

"18d 1m 1671-2. The towne doth grant to Deacon Howlett, Lieut. Peabodye, Isacke Esty, Joseph Towne, Corporal Edmund Towne and Thomas Baker all the swamp meadow that lyeth upon the river called Ipswich river extending from the lower part of the Governor's meadow down to the bridge that goeth over the meadow below old goodman Townes for and in consideration of fifty pounds ye towne hath received of the above named parties the meadow herein mentioned lyeth on the south side of Ipswich river."

I presume this is the same swamp referred to in Felt's history, now known as Wenham swamp. "River Ipswich. Speaking of this, Johnson says 1646: "A faire and delightful river, whose first rise or spring

Sargent Howlett fined for felling 4 trees for rale and planks (which he made known himself.)" Good, honest soul! He should indeed be a deacon beyond a peradventure.

Ensign Thomas Howlett married for first wife Alice French of Boston. His children were: Samuel, William, born 1650, Thomas, John, Nathaniel, Sarah and Mary. Thomas, John and Nathaniel died before their father, Sarah married John Cummings, Mary married a Perley. His wife Alice died in 1666, and he married a second wife Rebecca who survived him. He died himself the 22d of Dec., 1677, aged 79 years. Of the two sons Samuel and William who were left to represent the family in Topsfield, not much is said of William in the records. To him was left the house by the brook, and the last paragraph of his father's will reads as follows: "Lastly, I ordain my son William Howlett my sole executor of this my last will and testament, to whom I give, my debts being paid, all the rest of my estate,





housing, lands, goods—and profits of all sorts—unto him and his heirs forever.”

But it was upon Samuel that his father's mantle fell. Like him he went through all the offices, from Sergeant upwards. He was a blacksmith and “At a lawful Towne meeting ye 15 January 1668 The Inhabitants of ye Towne hath given Samuel Howlett an invitation to come to the town and set up his trade of smithing to do ye Townes worke.”

“Upon consideration yt Samuel Howlett promiseth to ye town to Come and set up his trade in ye town and doe there worke, they have given him four acres of land upon the Common Hill next to William Smith and John ffrainch land.”

We may naturally suppose that this “Common Hill” was the place where his house was located, as we know that he lived on a hill, on what is called Howlett St., just behind the Methodist-meeting house. Right here let me say that I shall never again say *church* without an inward protest. In England they erected *churches*, but our fathers built *meeting-houses*.

I went to explore Howlett St. and find the site of Samuel Howlett's home one day in the early fall. It was one of those beautiful days when there was a haze on the hills and it was joy enough simply to be alive. I had not been on the old road for a long time, and was entirely unprepared for its rough condition. After I had seen several rocks as large as tea-kettles lying in the path I began to be somewhat alarmed. My horse, who is so remarkable for the dignity of his demeanor, the solemnity of his

walk and conversation that he is known in the family as Old Hundred,

began to show symptoms of suppressed excitement. Whether he thought he perceived the ghosts of the departed Howletts peering at him from behind the bushes I cannot tell, but he certainly looked around in a nervous and suspicious manner and manifested a most unwonted desire to go. When he came out on the travelled road he showed symptoms of unseemly hilarity, and after indulging himself in various antics a pair of heels came flying up into the air. Undoubtedly this was a great relief to his mind but it had upon me a contrary effect. I alighted from my carriage, and we walked home together very peaceably.

The second time I was more successful. Leaving my quadruped in another's care I climbed the “Common Hill” and had no difficulty in finding Samuel Howlett's cellar and well. It was just after a heavy rain and they were both partially filled with water. A tree had sprung up from the side of the well, a maple tree I judged, though the leaves had fallen and the little new buds were starting out ready for another spring. I was struck with the beauty of the situation. Were it not that the whole hill seems surcharged with water, I should prophesy that Samuel Howlett's taste will some time be vindicated and the “Common Hill” once more be built upon. I looked about me and tried to fancy how it appeared in ye olden times. There were no meeting-houses then in view and probably not many houses. It is reasonable to suppose the eye would rest on mostly unbroken forest and



perhaps the howl of a wolf might salute the listening ear. In 1686 I find the following record:

"And the Towne have agreed to allow any as shall kill wolves in our Towne that is to the Towne men ten shillings apeece for every wolfe so killed."

But I did not see nor hear any wolves. I climbed the hill and walked along where tradition locates the old blacksmith's shop. It is said to have been placed on the right hand side of the road as you go from the village, some little distance from the top of the hill, after the willows are passed, before coming to the elms. I am told that blacksmith's coal was ploughed up at this place. Another shop has also been located in the same way at the foot of Joseph Andrews' hill, opposite the road which branches off. Tradition gives us another house on the left hand side of the road at the top of the hill but no trace of that remains and it is not known to whom it belonged.

But it is an undoubted fact that Samuel Howlett lived here and plied his trade and filled all the offices from constable to representative. He was selectman and that continually. I find that he served the town in that capacity sixteen years, four times he is called plain Samuel, six times Sergeant, once Ensign, and five Deacon. I find in Mr. Capen's record, as copied by Mr. John Gould, a statement that he was chosen to the office of deacon in 1701. Let me give Mr. Capen's first record that we may for a moment be transported back to the ye olden time. "Sept. 3, 1684 at a Church meeting called with reference to [ ] for his excessive drinking,

the Church was willing to baptize his children. [ ] did then confess he had been several times overtaken with the fault, was sorry for the same, the Church voted their satisfaction willing to baptize his children. There were present James Howsen., Francis Peabody, Nehemiah Abbott, Tho. Dorman, Ephraim Dorman, Samuel Perley, Samuel Howlett, William Howlett, Isaac Estie sen., and Sargent John Reddington, who were all satisfied. Witness, Tho. Dorman."

You notice that the name of the culprit was mercifully withheld, with uncommon consideration it seemed to me. Probably they had a kind of fellow feeling for him.

Sept. 20, 1701. "Sejeant Thomas Dorman and Ensign Samuel Howlett were chosen to be deacons although the church voted to have but one deacon chosen; but the number of votes for each being equal the church passed the vote to have both of them."

Good old deacon Samuel! He must have been a most imposing figure among the early settlers. One wonders how he looked and what he said and how he compared with our present deacons. We fail to see how he could have been any better. We heartily hope he was no worse.

Samuel Howlett married Jan. 3, 1670-1, Sarah Clarke, the daughter of my greatest-grandfather on these shores. His children were John, Mary, Sarah, Joanna, Martha, Susannah, Miriam and Samuel. From his will dated Apr. 4, 1720 I take the following: "Deacon Samuel Howlett's will, Blacksmith."

"I give to my son John all the up-





land and meadow and housing of that land he lives upon and all that upland and meadow which lieth on the south of Isaac Cummings land joining to Mr. Bradstreets ford; excepting five acres of that which I do give to my son Samuel as a part of his portion. Further I give to my son John five acres of meadow out of the Hasakie meadow."

"I give to my son Samuel all my homestead, housing and land and all of my Hasakie meadow which his brother John has a part of, and also my shop and tools, only I would have him be so kind to his brother as to let him use them sometimes."

"I do order that all my bibles and sermon, books to be equally divided among my sons and daughters, Mary Wyld, Sarah Averill, Martha Dorman, Susannah Sherwin, Miriam Standley."

We will now return from Samuel Howlett to his brother William by the following highway: "Sargt. John Hovey and Daniel Redington being appointed to lay out a highway from Sargt. Samuel Howletts by John Wilds his house to William Howletts brook accordingly they have done it, beginning at the county road and along on the south side of Samuel Howletts land and between Mr. Capens land and the said Howletts land and so on the south side of Muddy Spring, so along the old cart way to John Wilds his land and so between Capt. French his house and barn, so along the old way to the north corner of Daniel Redingtons, bounds by John Wilds his gate and so as the way now lyeth by the said Wilds his house and so along the old way to mile brook bounds and still along the old way to William Howletts brook; trees being marked in certain places the most of the way this was taken from their own months dated 21 march 1692-3.

Ephraim Dorman now Clark.

William Howlett married Mary Perkins 27th Oct., 1671. He had but one child, Thomas, to whom he gives a deed, dated July 30, 1709, of his farm lying on both sides of the brook being then the boundary between Ipswich and Topsfield. "Convey, confirm unto him my said son Thomas Howlett all that my farms, messuage or tenement which I myself and my said son dwells."

This Thomas Howlett married Rebecca Cummings, a daughter of the second Isaac, in 1695. Having no children of his own, he adopted Joseph Cummings, his wife's nephew, who became quite a figure in Topsfield history. As William Howlett outlived his son, who died in 1713, he again disposes of his Ipswich and Topsfield farm by a deed dated May 21, 1715, and given to his nephew John Howlett the son of his brother Samuel: "For and in consideration of a deed of sale of this date made by John Howlett of said Ipswich at my request and desire of his farm in thick woods to Joseph Cummings of said Ipswich, as per deed may appear and also for the sum of sixty pounds paid and secured to be paid by my order to my daughter-in-law Rebecca Howlett, and for that said John Howlett hath promised and engaged to fulfil these following articles: to pay annually during the natural lives of me and my now wife twenty-five bushels of good and marketable Indian corn, six bushels of good merchantable bar-



ley, malt, four bushels of rye, two bushels of wheat, one hundred pounds of good pork, four barrels of cider, six bushels of apples and firewood and fifty of pork sufficient for them at the door, the keeping of two cows winter and summer, and ten pounds of flax, tan, and eighteen pounds money, the running of two pigs at door and in the orchard; all this duty to be performed yearly by said John Howlett.

Convey, and confirm unto said John Howlett his heirs and assigns forever all my farm, messuage or tenement which I now dwell upon and that tenement which my son Thomas' widow dwells upon which farm and tenements are situated partly in Ipswich and partly in the township of Topsfield, containing by estimation one hundred acres be it more or be it less, lying partly on the north side of Ipswich river and partly on Topsfield line bounded as followeth: on the northeast by Ipswich town common on the east upon Ipswich river, west on land of Nathaniel Averill, Samuel Howlett and Ebenezer Averill, northwest on land of Lieut Tobijah Perkins, also all my woodland lying upon the south side of Ipswich river."

This deed mentions John Howlett's farm which he exchanged for this farm in "thick woods." This term will be found in many of the old deeds. My grandfather always used it. He would say "The sun is rising over thick woods" or "The fog is coming up over thick woods." I found a deed of this farm. "One piece whereon stands the dwelling house and barn about sixty acres. Beginning at a stake and heap of

stones by John Lampsons land at a place called the pond" thence up the hill and extending to the river on the other side. As I have not succeeded in finding any old cellar there, and as Joseph Cummings is known to have lived on the hill, it seems reasonable to suppose that John Howlett's house and barn were located at or near the place where Augustus Smith's buildings now stand.

In this deed I also find mention of the first tenement on our side of the brook, that is the "tenement which my son Thomas' widow dwells upon." I have no means of knowing how long this tenement had been there. I infer that it was situated there from subsequent records.

Of the second Samuel Howlett, son of the first Samuel, I find but scant mention. He married Martha Chapman of Boxford 3d April, 1722, and his children were Samuel, Martha, William, Dan, Mary and Davis. But it is John who is now settled by the brookside who keeps up the reputation of the family. He is sergeant, captain, selectman for ten years, representative and deacon. In 1718-19 I find the following record: "John Hovey, John Howlett and Jacob Peabody are chosen in behalf of ye towne of Topsfield to go to the towne of Ipswich to demand a highway to be laid out from Ipswich town by William Goodhues to Gravelly brook, and from thence by the house which was formerly William Howlett's to Topsfield line, and in case Ipswich town neglects or refuses to lay out said way then the aforesaid John Hovey, John Howlett and Jacob Peabody are empowered to make application to any court of quarter ses-





sions to be held in the county of Essex."

I must not omit to mention that Capt. John Howlett was a member of the first school committee in Topsfield in 1731-2. In 1723 "Deacon John Howlett and Mr. Nathaniel Porter are chosen agents for the town to appear at the next Inferior Court to be holden at Salem to answer to ye townes presentment for not being provided with a grammar school-master."

John Howlett married Bathsheba Hoyt 26th Dec., 1699. His children were John, Mary, William and Thomas. Mary married Jacob Clarke, a brother of my great-great-grandfather, Israel Clarke. By his will dated Aug. 21st, 1735 he gives to his "son William a small piece of land where my dwelling house now stands. And also I give to my son William the old part of my now dwelling house immediately after my wife's death or marriage and further my will is that if my son William shall be disposed to sell the house lot herein given to him that he shall give his brothers to wit John & Thomas the refusal thereof before he shall sell the same to any other person."

William Howlett sold out to his brother Thomas in 1738 and disappeared entirely from the scene; and I always imagined that Thomas *did* "pull down and carry away the newest end of my now dwelling house" and left the old part to decay, as it appears from a subsequent deed that there was no house in the old situation and Thomas Howlett was living at or near the place where the old Robinson house now stands.

Before the making of his will Capt.

John Howlett had given to his son, John Howlett, a deed of our present farm, the first deed ever given of the homestead by itself. "Deed from John Howlett to John Howlett junior:" "To all Christian people to whome these presents shall come I John Howlett do send greeting. Know ye that I John Howlett of Topsfield in the county of Essex in the province of the Massachusetts bay in New England yeoman: For and in consideration of that paternal love which I bear to my son John Howlett have given and granted and by these presents do freely, clearly and absolutely give and grant unto my said John Howlett his heirs, executors or administrators one Messuage or tract of land together with the buildings thereupon situated lying and being in Ipswich in the county and province aforesaid containing by estimation twenty-four acres be it more or less butted and bounded as followeth. On the north on the land of Tobijah Perkins, on the west and northwest upon the brook as it runs to an ash tree marked standing below Ipswich road, from thence southeast upon a straight line to a swamp oak tree standing on the bank of Ipswich river, from thence east as the river runs, northeast upon Ipswich river and Paines hill lots which premises I give unto him my said John Howlett as three hundred pounds of his portion out of my estate to have and to hold all the said premises to him my said John Howlett his heirs executors and administrators from henceforth as his and their own proper right and estate peaceably to enjoy henceforth by virtue of these presents. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my



hand and seal the twentieth day of March one thousand seven hundred and twenty seven in the thirteenth year of his majesty king Georges reign."

#### John Howlett.

This deed refers to "Paine's hill lots." I have noticed that most of the early settlers in our part of the town had lots in Paine's hill pasture. It seems that it must have been at that time an extensive tract of land. The name Paines' hill is still given to the highest point in our land, and the pasture which contains it, now having but two owners, contains something like fifty or sixty acres. It would be quite interesting to know how far it formerly extended and how many owned lots in it. Felt's History of Ipswich states that the name Paine's Hill was given as early as 1689, but as William Paine's grant was in 1646 and he parted with the "farm" north of Gravelly brook in 1647, it seems as if the name was probably applied much earlier.

John Howlett, Jr., married Hannah Averill July 18, 1728. He died in 1746, leaving by will his property to his widow. I was very much interested in the fact that John Howlett mentions in his will "my niece Dorothy Clarke now living with me, the daughter of my sister Mary Clarke." She was in all probability the first Clarke who lived upon our place. This will some of his family attempted to break on account of his "being in a conferred poster on his brain." I am not very familiar with medical terms but that was all I could make of it, and though I know people have all sorts of things on their brains I never before heard of any one having

a "conferred poster." Whatever it was, they claimed that poor John Howlett had it, and his friends, neighbors and relatives, were forthwith summoned to court to tell all they knew about him. His brother Samuel's wife, Martha Howlett, testified that "John Howletts wife told her that the said Howlett was become so disordered in his mind that he could not in a regular manner carry on his family prayer; for if he made an attempt to pray he would run into such nonsense that his prayer would turn into confusion, wherefor the Howletts wife had desired him to leave off praying in his family and accordingly he did." Poor John Howlett! People in higher places than you sometimes "run into nonsense" in their prayers, but I never heard that it was considered a sign of insanity.

In examining these papers after a lapse of one hundred and fifty years, it did not appear to me that John Howlett was of unsound mind. But I did gather the belief that if the secrets of his life could be made known, a tragedy would lie revealed.

However, nothing was proved against him, and his wife had the farm and immediately sold it to her husband's brother, Thomas Howlett, who sold it the same year to Andrew Burley. This brother himself died a few months later. I infer that his wife, Lydia Porter, and his children, Alice, John, Thomas, Annirukami, Lydia and Allis, some or all of them, may have lived on his farm some years, as the estate was not divided until 1763. I found this Thomas Howlett's grave in the older part of the cemetery, lying somewhat





away from the other graves, the stone bearing this inscription "Here lies the body of Mr. Thomas Howlett, who died Sept. 14, 1746."

Of the second Samuel Howlett's family I find record of the marriage of the eldest son Samuel to Mary Redington, 22d Nov., 1744, and the births of two children, Samuel, born 29th Aug., 1745, and Elizabeth, 20th August, 1748. Then this entry is in the church records "Nov. 4, 1749. Voted each member pay 4 shillings old tenor and Samuel Howlett jun. Martha and Mary Howlett—dismissed—to church in Woodstock."

William, son of Samuel Howlett, born 10th Dec., 1726, died 27th Dec., 1745 at Cape Breton.

Davis Howlett, born 13 Oct., 1737 was a cordwainer in Topsfield 1794. The name then disappeared entirely from town. Over a hundred years they lived and labored in Topsfield and now what is left? A few scanty records, two deserted homesteads marked now only by the cellars, and a solitary grave. "As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field so he flourisheth; for the wind passeth over it and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more."

If we have hope only in this life we are indeed "most miserable."

But time waits for no man. One goes and another comes to fill his place.

Thomas Howlett gave a deed of his brother, John Howlett's farm in 1746 to Andrew Burley. Of him I have little knowledge, excepting that his wife was the widow Hannah Burnham, and during the nine years that he lived here a daughter Hannah

and four boys, John, William, James, and James, came upon the stage of life to taste the joys and sorrows of existence. Then he sold out to Israel Clarke, jun., in 1755.

Of the seven generations in my line of Topsfield Clarkes, five have lived upon our present farm.

The first Daniel Clarke was a very early settler in Topsfield. I find his name first mentioned in Ipswich in 1636. Feb. 27th, 1648 is the date of the following, recorded in the same town, "Whereas Daniel Clarke had a house lot as did appear by the testimony at this meeting granted to him, as also six acres of meadow at the New Meaddowes as appears by a record; there was granted unto the said Daniell fifteen acres of upland near to Mr. Saltonstalls farme in full satisfaction of the two former grants above exprest." But he did not obtain possession of this land either, and so received another grant 13 Oct., 1650. "Goodman Daniell Clarke having had a former grant of fifteen acres in satisfaction of a former grant of a house lot and six acres of meddow, which is not laid out to him it is now voted that Sargeant Clarke with the lot layers shall make him satisfaction out of the common land beyond Mr. Wiuthrop's farm, near to the New Meddowes." Whether he succeeded in getting this land laid out to him, or went on receiving satisfaction for former grants to the end of his days, I am unable to determine. I cannot locate his home although I have frequently found his name in old deeds and records. That he owned land somewhere in our present vicinity, at one time, seems probable from the fact



that one of the six "particulars," copied into the Topsfield records from Ipswich, states the following: "Granted and sold unto Ensign Howlett a little stripe of land lying between him and Daniell Clarke." I have evidence also from other sources that about this time he held real estate in what is now Springville. I find his name given as a commoner in 1661 and 1664, nevertheless "Daniell Clarke Coming into ye Towne meeting the 6th of March 1682-3 and saing that he had noe wright in ye Coming."

"The Towne has Voated Goodman Clarke a Comminer. Voated."

The 28th April 1669 "The court grants license unto Daniel Clarke at Topsfield to keep an ordinary for selling beer and victuals for a year" This license was renewed May 1674, March 1675, Sept. 1680 and Sept. 1681. While keeping this "ordinary," he was fined "ten shillings and costs for selling a gill of liquor to the Indians." "Lo, the poor Indian!" One wonders how many of them it took to drink that gill and what effect it had upon them.

I learn from an old court record that Daniel Clarke married Mary Newbury, daughter of Mr. Thomas Newbury. Their children were Mary, Elizabeth, Dority, Sarah, Martha, Daniell born 26 Oct. 1657, died 17 Jan. 1560, Judith, John, Daniell, Samuel and Humphrey. Elizabeth married William Perkins in 1669, a son I think of Mr. William Perkins, the minister. Sarah married Samuel Howlett Jan. 3, 1670. In Daniel Clarke's will dated Jan. 10, 1688, probated March 25, 1690, he gives his son Samuel, who is in Eng-

land, ten shillings, and his property is equally divided between his three sons, John, Humphrey and Daniel.

"Item. I give to my son John Clarke my mare that is in the woods or wheresoever she be, and if she be found her first colt that she bring I give to my grandchild John Howlett." Rather an uncertain legacy.

I stated that Daniel Clarke had a son Daniel who died in 1660. The name Daniel was again bestowed on another child who was born 1665. I have found many instances of this among the old families. If a child died, the same name was soon after given to another. It seems to me like a denial of immortality, like saying, "You are *dead*, gone from us forever, utterly destroyed, your place shall be filled and your name given to another." Yet perhaps I do our fathers injustice. It may be that there were so many names to be given and John, Thomas, Sarah and Dority followed in such quick succession that time and names both ran a little short.

Humphrey Clarke sold out his property in Topsfield "to my loving brother Daniel Clarke—all my right and interest in Topsfield township, the same towne as aforesaid of house, housing, buildings, lands, meadow and upland, improved or otherwise with all fencing of all sorts with all the timber, wood, trees, streams of water or mines rocks or whatsoever doth properly belong to housing, lands as aforesaid with all privileges, appurtenances belonging hereunto as was given me by my honored father Clarke now deceased." Anyone would think that he owned the whole town of Topsfield, but he parts with





all this "for and in consideration of cloth for a suit and forty pounds in silver." This deed is dated Dec. 12, 1693.

In 1706 I find a deed from John Gould to Daniel Clarke, painter, later a deed from Zaccheus Perkins to Daniel Clarke, carpenter, and in 1725 he is called Mr. Daniel Clarke, innholder. I am unable to locate his land with any definiteness. I only know that it bordered Mr. Capen's. In 1735 I find the following record: "To see what the town will do about repairing the stone wall between Mr. Daniel Clarke's land and the parsonage."

Daniel Clarke was throughout his life a servant of the town in various capacities. Besides other services he was frequently appointed attorney for Topsfield. "1712." "Elisha Perkins, Daniel Clarke and John Hovey are chosen agents or attorneys to joine with our representatives in behalf of the towne to manage our townes petition now in the general court for a rehearsing of the case between Boxford and Topsfield."

Daniel Clarke married Damaris Dorman May 29, 1689. Their children were Mary, born Aug. 16, 1694 died Aug. 22, Daniel, Jacob, Damaris, Mary, Israel, Humphrey, Sarah, Dinn and David. It appears by his will that he had a second wife Hannah, but I can find no record of the marriage. This will was made the seventh day of June, 1646, probated Feb. 13, 1748, making him 81 years of age at the time this instrument was drawn up. It seems to me a curious old document. I quote some passages from it.

"Item: I give to my well beloved

wife Hannah—the liberty of ye parlour in my now Dwelling house and ye Bed Room in it, with the Bed which is in sd Bed Room with ye bedstead & bed cord and under bed and two coverlids, two blanketts & three pair of sheets and one Bolfster and two pillows & pillow cases with the curtains and curtain rods Belonging to s'd Bed; and I give to my s'd wife the Liberty of the Wine Cellar and liberty to pass to and from it at all times, and I give to her the Liberty of ye Little Oven to bake in as shee may have occasion, and I give to my s'd wife the use of a brass Kettle, a brass Skillett & a brass Scimmer and I give the use of a pair of andirons & a fire Slice & tongs & a frying pan and warming pan & an iron pott and Trammels and Grid Iron & Chafin Dish and an Oval table & candlestick and I give her ye use of a Tankard, two pewter platters and six pewter plates and six knives & forks and six chairs and a pair of hand bellows. But if my s'd wife shall choose to live in ye house which my son Danni now dwells in Rather than ye aforesaid Parlour that then shee shall have ye liberty of that whole house and Cellar that is under it, with ye Garden that is before it and so to quitt her Right and privilege in my now Dwelling house. I give to my sd wife ye liberty of my House, Cellar, Garden, & ye use of my household goods as above mentioned so long as Shee continues my Widow and No Longer: I give to my sd wife six cords of wood yearly to be cutt fitt for ye fire and Brought to ye Door, and I give to my sd wife Six Bushells of Indian Corn, one Bushell of wheat,



one bushell of Rye, two bushells of malt and half a bushell of salt and

ten pounds of good flax from ye Swingle and one hundred pounds of good pork and seventy pounds of Beef and two barrels of cyder and barrels to put it In, and three bushells of winter apples & one bushell of Turnips; the whole of these Several Species above given to my sd wife for her Support Is to be delivered to her every year, In ye proper Season therefor, so long as shee remains my widow, and I give to my sd wife so much money or Bills of Credit as to be equal to forty shillings old Tenor, to be Delivered to her every year during her sd widowhood, and the milk of one cow and Liberty to take as many Summer apples as shee shall have Occasion of for her own eating during her sd widowhood. But if my sd wife shall insist upon her having her thirds of my estate Then she is not to have privilege above given her. The several particulars above sd that my wife is to have the use & liberty of During her sd widowhood Is all of it to fall to my Exet herein after named (as his other Estate) at my wife's Decease or marriage "

He also gives legacies to his daughter Mary Dorman and to his "grandchildren the children of my daughter Sarah Bradstreet Dec'd." Her husband was Samuel Bradstreet, the son of John Bradstreet, the fourth son of the Governor.

His executor was his son Dann Clarke, who, I think, continued the inn after his father's death, and also his son Daniel after him.

How long his widow continued her "said widowhood" I have not been

able to ascertain.

To his son Israel Clarke he gives a piece of land called Barzillah's land, containing about twelve acres and taking its name presumably from Barzillah Baker, to whom it formerly belonged. This may have been his home but I do not know that it was, nor where the land was located.

We have an old account book in our possession belonging to Israel Clarke. He seems to have sold groceries; I cannot say he had a store for I hardly think anything worthy of the name of store existed at that time. The dates run from 1738 to 1747 or thereabouts. Here I find many names of the old settlers. "Mr. William Redington, Jan. 31, oyle, two quarts." "Aprell, 1743, Thomas Baker, Molasses, 5 quarts." "March 12, 1744, Jabez Towne oyle 2 quarts." John Piehard, Nathaniel Capen, David Balch, Abraham Hobbs and many others are also mentioned. Occasionally he writes down a little family history, records the births and deaths of some of his children, or intersperses a few reflections. Then he goes right on with the molasses and the "oyle." I find this note at the bottom of a page, "Israell Clarke and his wife Desires the prayers of Gods peopel in this Congregation for there Daughter BarthSheba." And again "December 10th 1740, then ye Reverend Mr John Emerson Came to Dwell Down by the Meeting house and it was a very Rainy Time and had bin for Sum Time before." Of another character, "Robert Perkins has made forty five Barrels of Cyder." And back a little farther, "The widow Dodge, one tun." Nothing more:





we don't know what kind of a "tun" whether bought, sold or otherwise. Might have been molasses, only I doubt if there was as much in the whole settlement; or coal, but they didn't burn coal in those days. Never mind what it was, I am glad that the widow Dodge in her lonely and desolate condition could slace herself with "one tun." These entries also struck me as curious: "May 20th 1748. Received of Dan Clarke by the hand of his son Daniel eight black birds not fledged and cut off their Beaks." "July 14, 1748. Received of hennery Lamson 10 Ground Squirrels and cut off there Ears." I verily thought at first that my great-great-grandfather was akin to Jesse Pomeroy, a monster of cruelty. Some one innocently inquired "Why didn't he kill them?" But upon second thought I do not believe my worthy ancestor was guilty of the horrible crime of turning poor little squirrels and blackbirds loose on an unfriendly world minus their ears and beaks. There was probably a bounty offered upon them by some one and the ears and beaks were sent away as tokens of their untimely deaths.

Israel Clarke married Mercy Porter for first wife, for second wife the widow Swett, maiden name, Anna Jewett. Mercy Porter's children were Israel, Mercy, Jacob, David, Elijah, Sarah born Nov. 14, 1736, died Feb. 7, 1737. "Jan. 31, 1738. Then Sarah Clarke Daughter to Israel and Mercy Clarke was Born." She was followed by Samuel and Bathsheba.

"May 19, 1746. Then Israel went to his unkel porters to live."

In 1755 Israel Clarke, jun., then a

young man of twenty-three, bought our present farm of Andrew Burley. and with his father's family came here to live. That family consisted, as far as I am able to ascertain, of his stepmother, Anna Jewett, his sister, Mercy, and his brothers Jacob and David. Mercy married Joseph Roberts of Hamilton. Of Jacob, "who was born partially blind," as stated in the old family bible, I can find no further record. David lived here until he was twenty-one, and at that time or later removed to Bridgton where he is said to have amassed quite a fortune for those times.

My great-grandfather's stepmother had a daughter Ruth Swett. Whether she came here to live at that time with the family, I cannot say. It is certain that she did afterwards, for again in the old Bible it is recorded, "Israel Clarke jun. married Ruth Swett the daughter of his father's second wife;" which must have been a very convenient and satisfactory family arrangement. Of her mother's residence here we still have reminders in the shape of many old papers and account books, dating back as far as 1664, all in the same handwriting and belonging to the same person, Abraham Jewett, Rowley. He was evidently a shoemaker and cobbler. and very fond of scribbling and keeping accounts. It seems a little singular that these old books should have been so carefully preserved for such a long time.

Andrew Burley gave Israel Clarke jun., a long and carefully written deed of the farm. To this deed "we do set our hands and Seals this Seventh Day of July, 1755, in the twentyninth year of his Majesties



Reign." During his ownership he had increased the land from twenty-four to "Seventy and Three Acres be it more or be it less" including "a certain number of Lotts in Pains'-hill pasture so called also in sd Ipswich, being the whole of the second range of Lotts in sd Pasture, are in No. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 C. B.," and not including several outlying pieces of meadow and marsh.

Here were born Israel Clarke's family, consisting of Israel, Mercy, who was born April 13th, 1767 and died Sept. 23d, 1773, Anna, Sarah, Samuel, Humphrey, born July 25, 1780 and died May 30, 1782, and Humphrey born Jan. 7, 1783, and here died Anna Clarke, March 25, 1786, Israel Clarke, Nov. 24, 1789 at the ripe old age of 88 years, and eight months after Israel Clarke jun., July 26th, 1790.

To my great grandfather, Israel Clarke, we owe the row of willows by the brook side. My grandfather, who was but seven years of age when his father died, saw him set these trees out, making them some where from five to seven years over a hundred years of age. The hand that planted them has long since crumbled into dust, but the trees are more enduring than a monument of marble; for although the old trees are breaking down, new ones will spring from the roots and they will thus be continued indefinitely. Every year the first sign of the coming spring is seen in their growing greenness; they have been transferred to canvas, and at blossoming time, when the air is laden with fragrance, we do not doubt that others beside his descendants have reason to call

him blessed.

So Ruth Clarke was left a widow with several small children still below the age of majority. In this condition of affairs David Clarke of Bridgeton desires to relieve her somewhat of her burdens by adopting my grandfather, Humphrey. Whether he was the best looking or not I cannot say. I did not know him till he was old, yet I think it possible that he may have been. We still have several old letters written upon this subject by David Clarke of Bridgeton to my great grandmother Ruth Clarke. To illustrate the difficulty of travelling in those days I will quote a few lines from one of them, written Jan. 12, 1795. "I send you this letter by Mr. David Potter, he will return to Bridgeton in a Short time With two Sleighs; and if you have a mind Humphrey Should Com and Live with me, mr potter will Bring him Down if he is not too havy Loaded and I make no doubt he will take Good Care of him on the Roads and I Do not think that you will have a Better opportunity to Send him to me." Evidently there was no discussion about electric roads. I will just say here that "Humphrey" did go to Bridgeton and remained with his uncle two years; after which time he again returned to Topsfield.

Here, after he attained his majority he bought out the rights of his brothers and sisters and came into possession of his father's farm. He married Mercy Clinton Jan. 26, 1809. At or near this time the second house on the farm was erected by my great-uncle, Israel Clarke, and completed by my grandfather. It was a one story







house with a long, slanting roof at the back, the kitchen facing the north and with a bedroom at one end and a pantry at the other taking up the entire side of the house. Those old fashioned kitchens are rapidly disappearing. They were so made as to exclude the rays of the sun; only in the latter part of the afternoon, I remember, it would peep round the elm tree and throw a flickering light across my grandfather's table. They were cold rooms, perhaps meant to be so, in order that Puritan housekeepers might not take too much pleasure in living. Ours was not so bad owing to its sheltered situation, but in some other houses, with which I am familiar, built on higher land, the cold was something not easily forgotten. If the explorers for the North pole are simply seeking the coldest place on earth, they might give over their searching and contentedly sit down in an old fashioned New England kitchen.

In this house my grandfather's two sons, Humphrey and David, were born; here Humphrey died at the age of five years, my grandmother, Mercy Clinton, Jan. 2nd 1855; and afterwards my grandfather. Yet I cannot say that he died in the house. At eighty-five years of age, hale and vigorous, in full possession of his faculties, he fell dead in the cornfield holding in his hand the ripening blades of corn. No sound, no murmur, no groan to indicate to those working close by him, but concealed by the rustling corn, that a soul was passing,—a fitting close to an energetic, hard working life. In the prayer of the English church occurs this petition, "And deliver us from

sudden death." Rather, let me say, deliver me from the slow torture, the lingering agony of long continued sickness.

My grandfather left us an enduring legacy in the noble elm which shades the western side of the house. My father saw him sow the seed of this tree when he was ten years of age, making it now seventy-two years old. I measured it a short time ago and found it eighteen feet in circumference. I could hardly realize, as I measured its rugged sides, that seventy-two years ago it was only a tiny seed.

"And sun and showers nourished it  
And gave the elm tree birth."

At that age man begins to fail and grow feeble and gray. Not so the grand, old tree. The years thus far only bring to it added beauty and vigor. The trunk grows larger, the branches shoot higher and far up above the world below the oriole and vireo fasten their nests to its swaying twigs.

David Clarke married Mary Peabody, Dec. 3d, 1840. In this same house his four children were born and here the oldest child, Merceea Clinton, died at the age of three years.

Our present house was built by my father in 1871. Here my brother, Humphrey H. Clarke, died Feb. 17, 1874, and my father, David Clarke, March 13, 1880.

In looking over our family history I have been struck by the continual recurrence of the same name. In every family but one there was an Humphrey Clarke, and as the next family had two the omission was atoned for. I have really felt a



curiosity to know where and when the first Humphrey Clarke came into existence, and why his descendants should cling to his name so pertinaciously. In our family we ought to be able to say, "The quality of mercy is not strained" for we have been blessed with many Mercys'.

My great grandfather Clinton, the father of Mercy Clinton, my grandmother, left an account book very similar to that previously quoted from, belonging to Israel Clarke, except that there are in it more reflections and jotting down of events. I will give a few, which may be interesting on account of their age.

"July 30, 1794. A fire in Boston, burnt fifty dwelling houses, seven ropewalks, stores etc., loss estimated at one hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling. The same day three pirates were executed on the common.

Sept. 13. The bell was hung in the meeting house. Betsey's brown house moved. Henry Tufts pardoned from the sentence of death by the governor and put on the castle during life.

Christmas day was the pleasantest day I ever saw, no snow, no ice, no frost.

Jan. 29, 1795. John Potter's barn blew down, killed four head of cattle, a very heavy gale of wind.

Jan. 19 & 20, 1810. Coldest ever known in New England.

July 27, 1804. Eben Clinton left home to sail in the Vainlove for northwest coast, Tom Brown master, Simon of Boston owner, bound to northwest coast and the voyage to be about three years and God be pleased to bless him."

From the nature of my subject my paper has borne a close resemblance to some of those chapters in Chronicles which go on this way: "And Shallum begat Hilkiah and Hilkiah begat Ajariah," but we are all lovers of the supernatural. Let me close with a ghost story, the only one I know which is connected with the place, and certainly the most authentic which ever came to my knowledge.

My grandmother, Mercy Clinton, had a younger brother by the name of David Clinton. In his visits to his sister he became acquainted with, and interested in, Mercy Perkins, a daughter of Elisha Perkins who then lived upon the hill in the house now occupied by the family of the late David Perkins. Being somewhat out of health he went to Boston to see a physician. A letter had just been received from him stating that he was doing as well as could be expected.

At that time, my grandmother's niece, Edna Dane of Brookfield, was visiting her. Mercy Perkins came over to make a neighboring call. When she took her leave, Edna walked home with her as far as the bridge. After they separated she heard a scream from Mercy and turned to go back to her, but seeing her keeping on her way home apparently all right, she went on again.

The next day Mercy came over in tears and after saying, "We shall certainly hear from David today," related the following story. After leaving Edna she looked around and saw David Clinton standing behind her. Thinking he had returned unexpectedly she put out her hand to





## The Topsfield Copper Mines.

By MRS. G. WARREN TOWNE.

"Mr. Endecott hath found a copper mine in his own ground. Mr. Leader hath tried it." So writes John Winthrop to his son, on the 30th Sept., 1648. Such a find was of much importance to the infant colony, and Mr. Endicott at once petitioned the General Court to lay out, and establish the bounds, of the five hundred and fifty acres granted him in 1639, and on which he had made so valuable a discovery. The Court acted upon his request in October of the same year, and appointed Lieut. Walker and Seargt. Marshall, both of Reading, to perform this duty, which for some unknown reason they neglected to do, for nearly ten years afterwards in 1657, the Court, on petition from the Government, appointed Mr. Thos. Danforth and Robert Hale "to lay out the former grant of land on the Ipswich river made to the honored Governor Jno. Endicott Esq.," that he shall not "suffer damage that it hath not bin layd out formerly."

The return made to the Court reads as follows:  
1659. 25th May.

"Layd out unto the honored Governor John Endecott Esq. five hundred and fifty acres of land on Ipswich River and is bounded with a brook anent Goodman Goolds land on the east, Blind Hole on south, and the wilderness elsewhere surrounding, the said farme taking into

the bounds thereof the swampy meadow land that lieth on the south side of the river."

Tho. Danforth,  
Robert Hale.

One would naturally think that the location of the Governor's farme on the Ipswich River was at last settled, but there are four or five other orders of the Court in regard to it. There seems to have been much trouble about the bounds between the land of Zaccheus Goold and "ye honored Governor" and as neither were of yielding dispositions, it required much time and patience to come to a satisfactory settlement even with the help of the General Court. But the Governor finally settled his five hundred and fifty acres on the Ipswich river and we are ready to consider the copper mine.

Governor Endicott's attempt at mining copper is the earliest record we have of the mining of this metal in North America by Europeans.

The natives of the soil, the Indians, had made use of copper for personal adornment, long years before the advent of the white man; but the eastern tribes probably obtained it in barter from the tribes living near "the great lake" where copper could be found nearly pure in its crude state.

In the accounts of Gosnold's voyage to America, made in 1602, the



fact that the Indians of Massachusetts had copper in their possession is mentioned.

One John Brereton, who accompanied Gosnold, wrote as follows regarding the natives of southern Massachusetts:

"They have also great store of copper, some very red and some of a paler color; none of them but have chains, ear rings, or collars of this metal. They head some of their arrows therewith. Their chains are made of hollow pieces of the bigness of one of our reeds, a finger in length ten or twelve of them together on a string which they wear about their bodies like bandeliers a handful broad, all hollow pieces like the other but somewhat shorter, four hundred pieces in a collar, very fine and evenly set together; besides these they have large drinking cups made like skulls, and other thin plates of copper. I was desirous to understand where they had such store of this metal and made sign to one of them who taking a piece of copper in his hand made a hole with his finger in the ground and withall pointed to the main from whence they came."

But it was in Topsfield that the first attempt was made by English colonists to mine the ore.

Charles M. Endecott, in his memories of Gov. Endecott, mentions the copper mine in Topsfield and speaks of it as being upon his land on the Ipswich river near a place called at the time Blind Hole. He says it was tested by Mr. Leader of the Lynn iron works, who must have given a favorable opinion, for in 1651 Mr. Endecott petitions the

General Court for the grant of a wood lot in its neighborhood to enable him to work it with more ease. In this petition he states that he had already been to some charges for the finding and melting of copper ore, and was still in prosecution of bringing it to perfection by sending to Sweden and Germany for persons well skilled in the art to assist him.

Following is the grant made 14 Oct. 1651:

"In answer to the petition of John Endecott, Esquire, ye present honored Governor the court doth grant him three hundred acres of wood land lying neere to the place he intends to sett up his works, named Blind Hole, neere to a farne formerly granted him not being granted to any other, on this condition, that he sets up his workes within seven years."

Mr. William P. Upham writes me that he does not think the three hundred acres of woodland were ever laid out. He says, "John Porter seems to have owned the land on the south of the 550 acre Endecott grant where the three hundred acres in Blind Hole would have been set off to Endecott if he had complied with the condition as to the copper mine." Mr. Upham thinks as the three hundred acres of woodland were to be *near* the copper mine the mine must have been on that part of the 550 acres lying south of the river. There is not the shadow of a doubt in my own mind in regard to this.

C. M. Endecott closes his account of the mine by saying it was subsequently abandoned, it not yielding sufficient copper to encourage the Governor to work it longer.





Savage, in his sketch of Richard Leader, says he tried a copper mine in Endecott's farm at Salem (Topsfield) but met with ill success. All things considered I think we must conclude that Governor Endicott was not more successful than others have been at a later date.

We cannot pass by Richard Leader without giving a short sketch of the man.

A letter written by Emanuel Downing to John Winthrop, Jr., in 1644, is full of interesting information.

My Honored Cosen,

The Adventurers in the Iron Works have agreed with Mr. Leader to take care of their work, you know the man. He lived in Ireland. He is a perfect accountant, hath skill in mynes and tryall of mettalls; he hath covenanted to serve them seven 7 years his wages is 100 li. per annum he is to have passage for himself, his wife, 2 children, 3 servants, an house to be built for him, and ground to be allowed him for his horses and a few cowes. The 100 li. per annum begins the 25 of March next. When I perceived they were resolved upon him, and that yt would be noe advantage to you for me to have expressed my dislike of their way herein, I told them I was well assured Mr Leader would be a welcomb man vnto you for at my coming thence you expressed your desire that myself or some other would undertake the business. Then Mr Leader told them he would not medle with any undertaking of their business without your free consent and contentment, for soe in private he

had promised me to express himself before them all which he preformed verie honestly. Mr Holyc told me that when they were agreeing with Mr Leader they would have given him 150 li. per annum rather than left him, therefore if Mr Leader had stood upon yt he might have had the 150 li.

Your assurrd loving uncle  
Em. Downinge.

London, 25 febr 1644.

That he was of a studious disposition we may infer from an extract taken from a letter written by Robert Childs to John Winthrop Jr., in 1650.

"Mr Leader hath more curious books than I, especially about Divinity business, where you may see them." We cannot repress a sensation of surprise that the books were described in just those words.

Again, and this time it is John Winthrop, Jr., himself who writes in 1646.

Sir: I am much asked for, the saddle that was left, I pray send it by the first opportunity to be left at my father's for me. It was borrowed of Mr Leader."

In 1649 The Adventurers in England sent over one Mr. Dawes, to oversee Mr. Leader (but he was far short of Mr. Leader.) They could not agree, so Mr. Dawes was returned to Ieneriffe. We imagine that Mr. Dawes watched the infant town of Lynn sink below the horizon with a sigh of satisfaction.

In 1651, Mr. Richard Leader of the Lynn Iron works was arraigned by the court for reproaching Governor Endicott, the Court, and the Church at Lynn. In their first excitement the



Court fined him two hundred pounds, which was afterwards reduced to fifty. Mr. Leader made an acknowledgment and the fine was remitted, but after this Mr. John Gifford appears in the records as overseer of the Lynn Ironworks. Savage says that Leader went to Berwick where he had a grant of the exclusive use of the Little river to erect mills. He was a magistrate and in 1654 was a collector of Strawberry Bank. Here he disappears from the records.

There are two mine lots, so called, both owned by William Batchelder. We will consider them for convenience sake as the upper and lower mine lot. The upper lot is a field of about four acres and is situated on the left of the road leading from Sewell Towne's house to William Batchelder's and about half way between the two places. The lower lot is just beyond the first on the right, at the corner of the Boxford road, it is also bounded on the north-west by the highway leading to Middleton; this lot contains between two and three acres of pasture land.

S. S. Mackensie in an article in the Essex Institute Proceedings says "there are three different localities where shafts were sunk, one near the meadow on land now owned by David Towne and near the house of Elisha Towne." We have found no trace of this shaft and it is possible Mr. Mackensie was mistaken, as no record can be found of an Elisha Towne living in this neighborhood. Of the other two shafts mentioned we have a very connected history.

Before we proceed to the history of the lower mine, let us linger a while with the people who at differ-

ent times have owned this piece of land. The first to greet us is "Old Captain Ben," as he was called.

Benj. Towne was born in Topsfield May 10, 1691. He married four times. First, Catherine, daughter of Jacob Towne, Jr., April 1, 1713. Second, Susannah Wilds, April 12, 1722. She was the mother of nine children; March 7, 1728 she gave birth to twins Jacob and Joseph and April 30, 1736, two months before her death, she became the mother of three healthy male children all of whom lived to be middle aged men. Third, he married Mary Perkins May 2, 1738 and fourth, Mrs. Mary Clark. He acquired a large estate for the time in which he lived and from the records seems to have been a prominent man in town affairs, frequently officiating as town clerk, selectman and assessor of taxes, etc. He died Feb. 11, 1772 aged, 81.

Jacob his son, married Elizabeth Perkins and died leaving one son, Jacob who married Mary Perkins. Their son was our well known Jacob Perkins Towne, for forty years town clerk.

Joseph married twice. By his first wife, Elizabeth Rogers, his children were Deborah, who married a Brickett; Elizabeth, commonly called Betty, and Lydia. Betty and Lydia remained unmarried and lived at the old homestead on the Middleton road.

Lydia was insane and many curious and amusing incidents of her insanity are still related in the neighborhood. It is said if there was a death in town she invariably placed little stones in line like a funeral train, and many now living remember





Betty's anxious inquiry of a chance caller, "Who is dead?"

The neighbors would say, "Well Liddy, how is Betty today?" Her answer was always the same, "Betty is a good gal, she never steals!"

The story of Aunt Betty and Liddy is very pathetic. Betty was the elder by twelve years, and it is said was very plain. Liddy was a pretty girl, and many stories of her pretty dresses, her beauty and her skill and recklessness as a horsewoman still exist. We can easily imagine the love and pride of the elder and plain-er sister. At length a time came when Lydia was busy from morning till night with her wheel and needle; when the pile of snowy linen grew steadily day by day; when the silken wedding dress was ready for the wedding that never came off, for it was the old story of a new face and a new fancy. Lydia became hopelessly insane.

Then was the devotion of the elder sister made manifest. Not one cent of Lydia's property was ever touched. Betty's land was sold off bit by bit until next to nothing remained. All these years she never wavered but bore her burden cheerfully till she lay it down at the Master's feet. Lydia survived her sister but one short month. They lie buried side by side in the old cemetery on the hill where the winds whisper softly in the pine trees and the spring flowers grow thick and white on their graves.

The following deed will tell its own story:

We Benjamin Towne, Gentleman, Jacob and Joseph Towne yeoman, all of Topsfield in consideration of

Five shillings and for divers other good considerations from Edmund Quincy of the District of Stoughtonham in the county of Suffolk, Gentleman, have sold Edmund Quincy all mines, mine ores, minerals and other hidden treasures of the Earth lying in land or farm of mine the said Benjamine Towne partly and partly in Land of us the said Jacob and Josep Towne which we purchased jointly of John Leach of Beverly, Esqr. bounded as follows, Viz: Southerly on the Land of Nehemiah Herrick there measuring sixty-two rods from the corner leading from Danvers Road to a white Oak Tree near the wall betwixt said Herricks Land and us the said grantors, then Northerly from said white Oak tree to a certain Spring enclosed with a stone wall there measuring about twenty rods then running still North-erly from said Spring about twenty rods more allong side with said Spring to a certain stone bridge across the road within the gate leading from Danvers to Middleton and from said Bridge on the road as it runs through the said gate from Middleton to Topsfield there measuring sixty-two rods and from thence within the Stone wall leading from the parting road toward said Herrick's house on the corner leading from said Danvers road first mentioned, there measuring about eighteen rods enclosing in said bounds A certain shaft or Mine Hole which is commonly known by the name of Towne's Copper Mine, also granting unto the said Edmund Quincy Right of Ingress Egress and Regress upon the land and premises and his workmen and Labourers, Pitts & Shalls, to sink Levells and



Drift ways and all other necessarys meet for working the Mines within the premises. Engine or Engines, Mill or Mills or any other Edeifices and Erect on the premisses and the use and benefit of all water or watercourses for the working said Mines and for cleaning the ores got within the premises and further we the said Benjamine Towne Jacob Towne and Joseph Towne do hereby agree with the said Edmund Quincy that in case he should discover any Veins of mines or mine ores, extending beyond the afore mentioned premises by us granted into any Parcel of Land to us belonging at this date that the said Edmund Quincy shall hold and enjoy the same on demand provided the said Demand is made within the term of one year from the discovery of such vein of mine ore and paying unto the said Benj. Jacob & Joseph Towne, one full sixteenth part of all such mines, mine ores, minerals and other Hidden Treasures of the Earth that shall be found and dug up in our land or got up by any ways or means whatsoever. Provided Nevertheless that whereas the said Edmund Quincy has commenced to work on the premises at the date of these presents and shall cease working on the same by the space of Twenty-one years next ensuing this Instrument at the expiration of said twenty-one years shall be null and void.

Dated June 1, 1771, signed by  
 Witnessed by Benjaim Towne  
 Bimsley Peabody Jacob Towne  
 Elijah Porter Joseph Towne  
 Mary Towne  
 Elizabeth Towne  
 Elizabeth Towne

In the Essex Register, Oct. 1-8, 1771, is this item:

"We hear from Topsfield that the Copper Mine, sometime since opened there at 12 or 15 feet depth, affords such samples of fine lively ore, extending in spattering all over the pit that experienced miners have declared the appearance preferable to any yet discovered in America."

In Captain Benjamin's will there is no mention of the Copper Mine, and as he died in Feb. 1772, the mine could have been worked but a short time.

After the death of their father, Jacob and Joseph owned the mine lot together till Joseph died in 1789, when his share fell to his daughter Lydia. She was not of age and her Uncle Jacob was appointed her guardian. It is said that he gave his share of the lot to her. Of this gift there is no record, but in 1839 Lydia was in full possession. After her death it passed through the hands of John C. Balch, Lorenzo P. Towne and William Rea to its present owner.

The first mention of the upper mine lot found in the records is a deed given by Samuel Cummings dated Feb. 7, 1772.

I, Samuel Cummings of Topsfield in the Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England, yeoman, and by the consent of Eunice my wife, in consideration of the sum of Fifty three pounds, six shillings and eight pence, paid me by Elijah Porter of Topsfield yeomen, do sell and convey to Elijah Porter a certain lot of land situate in Topsfield containing four acres, bounded, beginning at a corner in the fence by the highway and land of Joseph and Jacob Towne





from thence South easterly by land of the said Jacob and Joseph Towne to land of Enos Knight, thence North easterly by land of the said Enos Knight till it comes within two rods of a lott of land that was given Samuel Cummings by his father David Cummings, late of Topsfield, thence running North westerly within two rods of the fence that now stands between the land of said Samuel Cummings and land of Benjamin Bixby till it come to said highway, thence South westerly by said highway to the bounds first mentioned. This land was undoubtedly a part of the two hundred acre Porter grant.

At the death of Elijah Porter the land fell to the his son Thomas who sold the lot to Nehemiah Herrick for forty pounds, Nov. 3, 1784. The Herrick family lived here until 1791 when, Sept. 24, they sold their farm to Susannah Hawthorn of Salem for three hundred pounds. It is said by their descendants that the family moved away because they considered the vicinity of the copper mine unhealthy, and attributed to this source a number of sudden deaths that had occurred in the family. Susannah Hawthorn sold to Thomas Emerson April 1, 1792 for three hundred and thirty pounds. Mr. Emerson sold to Thomas Tenney of Rowley, May 20, 1795, for four hundred and sixty pounds. Mr. Tenney was discontented and sold to Nathaniel Porter of Middleton and at his death it was bought by Ezra Batchelder, the father of the present owner.

The following is the only official document relating to this mine on record.

I Elijah Porter of Topsfield yeo-

man In consideration of Five shillings Lawful money of the Province paid me by William Buntin of Worksworth in Darbyshare in Great Britton, Miner and for Divers other good considerations from the said William Buntin by me received, have bargained and sold unto the sd William Buntin one eighth part of all and Singular mines, mine ore, minerals and other Hidden Treasures of the Earth, lying in a certain Lot of land I bought of Samuel Cummings situated in Topsfield, the bounds being the same as in his deed, containing Four acres. Also granting unto William Buntin privilege of Engress, Egress and Regress, in and upon the sd Land, and to his workmen and laborers, pits and shafts, to sink Drift ways, to Drive make and bring up and all other Necessary and Convients. As to him and them shall seem meet, for Securing and working the mines, within the premisses above granted. Engine or Engines, mill or mills or any other Edifice to build and erect on the premises paying unto me Elijah Porter clear of all charges one full sixteenth part of all such mines, mine ores, minerals and other Hidden Treasures of the Earth as shall be found and dug up in the Lot of Land aforesaid, or got up by any other way or means whatever, and I the said Elijah Porter do bind myself my heirs etc. that I will warrant and defend the afore granted premisses against the lawful claims of all Persons, Excepting against the demands of our Sovereign Lord the King his heirs and successors. This is dated Topsfield 6 March, 1772.



According to tradition Buntin loaded a vessel with the ore and went with it to England. He was taken sick and died either before or shortly after he landed and no one knows what became of the ore. The mine was abandoned and in course of time nearly forgotten. One of the stories current in the neighborhood relates that a foreigner once undertook to dig gold or money there, and that he suddenly disappeared, and was supposed to have been swallowed up in the earth. This was believed by a few timid and superstitious ones of a later generation; some even had a dread of going through the mine lot by night as it was reported that a grim, unearthly looking figure, armed with a huge branch of a lightning scathed oak, had been seen walking guard by the forsaken mine.

It is also related that one of Buntin's descendants, finding the old agreement concerning the ore among his ancestor's papers, and thinking there might be wealth in store, came to Massachusetts.

He visited the registry of deeds at Salem and found that the mine at Topsfield was the one mentioned in the contract. It is thought that the young Englishman did not find the prospect promising enough to attempt to work the mine. His coming, however, aroused old memories, and was probably the cause of the mine being reopened in 1839. One reason for belief in this supposition is that Ralph H. French, then registrar of deeds, (who must have known of the young man's errand) was one of the company formed.

The papers of the time say that

the upper mine was opened first. It was found to be a well shaped shaft just through the surface earth, not penetrating the bed rock. At the bottom was a chamber of considerable extent in which were found some tools and the remains of a keg or tub left there by the workmen nearly seventy years before. The current story is that the mine had caved in during one night, in '72, and everything had remained as it was when the workmen left work at night. But the mine never caved in and probably the only reason why the tools had not been removed was the accumulated debris and the water with which the mine was filled except in very dry seasons.

The upper mine not yielding very abundantly, the shaft in the lower lot was opened to a depth of about one hundred feet. In this shaft also the water was very troublesome, and an attempt was made to drain it by running a tunnel to the low ground near by, but this proved impossible and the mine was abandoned a third time, a case where the old saying "A third time never fails," proved false.

The company had Dr. Jackson of Boston down to test the ore but his verdict was unfavorable. There is a tradition that only enough copper was removed to make a head to a cane for one of the directors. Prof. John Sears of the Peabody Academy of Science has kindly allowed me to insert the following list of "minerals, mine ores, and other hidden treasures of the earth" found at the old mine:

Carbonate of Copper, Malachite, in part; Chalcopyrite, Copper Pyrite, Iron Pyrite, Magnitite, Limonite.





Dyke of Melephyre; the stratified beds of Slate Limestone and Quartzite that the Melephyre Dyke cut, are of lower carboniferous age.

The official evidence in regard to this period of activity is very meagre, only two papers having been found, (both unrecorded) but they establish the identity of this mine with that of seventy-one and also show who the official agents of the company were.

Only one requires to be copied here which is as follows: "A copy of a paper concerning the Mine signed by David Towne and others."

The first part of this paper is a copy of the deed given by Captain Benjamin and his sons. Then follows: "We the subscribers now owning the lands adjacent to the first mentioned piece so sold by said Benjamin, Jacob and Joseph to

said Quincy, do hereby sell and convey to Ralph H. French and David Pulsifer 3d, both of Salem in said county of Essex, the right and privilege of extending diggings and searchings, etc., into our land adjoining said piece as aforesaid upon the same terms and conditions as are set forth in said deed, from said Benjamin Jacob and Joseph Towne to said Quincy.

Dated--1838

Signed

Elizabeth Towne  
Moses Pettingill  
Nathaniel Porter  
David Towne

The missing link in this sketch is the paper that proves the mine sold by Capt. Benjamin Towne was the one opened and abandoned by Gov. Endicott. This link we are quite sure time and patience will finally unearth.





## FUNERAL ELEGY.

The following funeral elegy was written by Rev. Joseph Capen who was settled over the church in Topsfield on June 11, 1684.

It was printed and also circulated in manuscript form. The following reprint is made from an original copy in the possession of Mr. Thompson Baxter of South Boston, whose grandmother was a Foster.

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### A Funeral Elegy

Upon the much to be Lamented Death and most  
Deplorable Expiration of the Pious, Learned, Ingenious,  
and Eminently Usefull Servant of God

Mr John Foster

Who Expired and Breathed out his Soul quietly  
into the arms of his Blessed REDEEMER  
at Dorchester, Sept. 9th Anno Dom. 1681

Ætatis Anno 33

Here lye the relict Fragments, which were Took  
Out of Consumtion's teeth, by Death the Cook  
Voracious Appetite dost thus devour  
Scarce ought hast left for worms t' live on an Hour  
But Skin & Bones no bones thou mak'st of that  
It is thy common trade t' eat all the fat.  
Here lyes that earthly House, where once did dwell  
That Soul that Scarce [ha]th left its Parallel  
For Sollid Judgment Piety & Parts  
And peerless skill in all the practick Arts  
Which as the glittering Spheres, it passed by  
Methinks, I Saw it Glance at Mercury;  
Ascended now: 'bov Time & Tides 't 'bides,  
Which Sometimes told the world, of Times & Tides.  
Next to th' Third Heavens the Stars were his delight,  
Where's Contemplation dwelt both day & night,  
Soaring unceertainly but now at Shoar,  
Whether Sol moves or Stands He doubts no more.  
He that despis'd the things the world admired,  
As having Skill in rarer things acquired,  
The heav'ns Interpreter doth disappear;





The Starre's translated to his proper Sphere.  
 What e're the world may think did Cause his death  
 Consumption 'twas not Cupid, Stopt his breath.  
 The Heav'ns which God's glory doe discover,  
 Have lost their constant Friend & instant Lover  
 Like Atlas, he help't bear up that rare Art  
 Astronomy; & always took his part:  
 Most happy Soul who didst not there Sit down  
 But didst make after an eternal Crown  
 Sage Archimede! Second Bezaleell  
 Oh how didst thou in Curious works excell!  
 Thine Art & Skill deserve to See the Press,  
 And be Composed in a Printers dress.  
 Thy Name is worthy for to be enroll'd  
 In Printed Letters of the choicest Gold  
 Thy Death to five foretold Eclipses Sad,  
 A great one, unforetold doth Superad,  
 Successive to that Strange Æthereal Blaze,  
 Whereon thou didst so oft astonish'd, gaze;  
 Which daily gives the world such fatal blows:  
 Still whats to come we dread; God only knows.  
 Thy Body which no activeness did lack  
 Now's laid aside like an old Almanack  
 But for the present only's out of date;  
 Twil have at length a far more active state.  
 Yea, though with dust thy body Soiled be,  
 Yet at the Resurrection we Shall See  
 A fair Edition & of matchless worth,  
 Free from Errata, new in Heav'n set forth:  
 Tis but a word from God the great Creatour,  
 It Shall be Done when he saith IMPRIMATUR.

Semoestus cecinit

Joseph Capen.





## The Cradle of the Averill Family.

By S. GERTRUDE BRADSTREET.

As we stand here today and glance over the deserted prospect, over pasture and woodland, imagination is hardly strong enough to picture this locality as the one-time centre of a thriving, prosperous community; and were it not for the unmistakable evidences of habitation which confront us, we could easily believe that the spot still keeps its "forest primeval", a place sacred to nature and to God. "The murmuring pines and hemlocks" still crown the hills, where the woodman's axe, now a frequent sound, might for the first time fell the giants of the forest to the ground. But a little research proves that this seeming primitiveness is false, and that at a comparatively short period ago the same sun which shines above us today o'erlooked a very different scene. Here, by common consent, we must agree that the first dwellers of our village made their early abode. This evidently was the centre of the settlement, for here lived and worked those who plied the trades of carpenter and wheelwright, those men who were conspicuous in town affairs, and those whose broader education placed them in a slightly higher rank than the others, giving to the locality the name of "The Colleges", a title which has descended through the years to our own time. I remember that in my childhood days I gave it its literal interpretation, and gazed with awe and wonder into the particular cellar which I had selected as

the foundation of the college, a cellar whose firm, strong wall marked the location of no unpretentious dwelling place. A short distance from here, near the highway over which we have just come, may be seen a cellar which marks the site of the home of William Averill, a carpenter by trade, the first of the name to come to Topsfield. Here he dwelt with his wife and eleven children, whose names I find to be William, John, Nathaniel, Job, Ebenezer, Thomas, Paul, Isaac, Hannah, Abigail and Mary, nearly all of whom are represented in our town today by their descendants.

I have not been able to ascertain when said William first came to Topsfield but think it must have been in the vicinity of 1662, for from that time until 1689 he was prominent in town affairs and held many town offices. I also find the names of his sons John, Nathaniel, Job and Ebenezer in the early records of our town from 1692 to 1727, having filled the offices of selectman, constable, surveyor, fence viewer, juryman and tithingman and also that of school master.

In March ye 1st, 1714, the selectmen agreed with William Averill jun., "to sweep ye meeting house and to be paid 18 shillings a year for his pains," and he was to have the meeting house key delivered to him. They also granted unto said William "half an acre of land somewhere where ye committee shall be ordered





to lay it out for him ye s'd Averill during his and his wife's life time, and s'd Wm Averill is hereby obliged to sweep ye meeting house and dig graves and to be paid for his work."

More than 200 years ago this land, a part of the original grant of Simon Bradstreet, was deeded by him to John and Nathaniel Averill, sons of William Averill. This deed given by Simon Bradstreet of Boston to John Averill, planter, and Nathaniel Averill carpenter, both of Topsfield, was dated Feb. 1st, 1692, "for and in consideration of 250 lbs. current money of New England conveyed to them 200 acres of land situate in the Township of s'd Topsfield in the present tenure and occupation of John Hawkins being betwixt two brooks there, the one commonly called and known by the name of Howlets Brook, and the other Mile Brook; also, on lot of out-land lying in the 2nd division lots on the south side of Ipswich river as laid out by the lot layers of s'd Town. The 1st Lot was in two parcels bounded as follows:—One part by the lands of Wm Howlet on the north and north-east, by the lands of Tobiah Perkins, Daniel Borman and John French on the north-west, by Mile Brook on the south and south-west, by the Hassakie meadow, so called, and the meadow of Wm Howlet on the south and south-east. The other part or parcel was bounded on the north by land of Wm Howlet and the Hassakie meadow, so called, on the west, Mile Brook on the south, till it comes to Ipswich River, and hath s'd river on the east. The Lot south of the river was bounded by the Lot of Daniel Clark on the one side and the Lot

of Jacob Towne on the other.

These, together with all houses, outhousing, edifices, buildings, fences, orchard, fruit trees, lumber, under-wood and stones, lying, standing or growing upon s'd lands or any part or parcel thereof, commonages, herbage, feedings, profits, privileges, hereditments and appurtenances, whatsoever thereto belonging."

This would indicate that there must have been a settlement here previous even to its possession and occupation by the Averills. Dwelling places, public buildings and farms of early pioneers may have formed a colony, whose origin and existence are alike forgotten,—hidden by the misty curtain of the past. If we could but push it aside and but for a brief space look back upon the realities of those distant years, verifying what must now remain a mere supposition. The original deed is still in the possession of one of the present owners. More than 140 acres of the land given by the deed are still held by the Averills, a large part never having been out of the name.

There are in this vicinity several cellars which mark the location of the homes of different members of the Averill family. Like nearly all old houses these were built to face the south. A lovelier spot than the one around us would be hard to imagine, and could we revive the image of those early homes surrounded by the verdant foliage of more than 200 years ago, we would certainly agree that those early settlers chose their homes with regard to beauty as well as comfort.

Of the early occupants I have been able to trace but little and that very



imperfectly. The first cellar we shall come to after leaving the highway, the house of which was standing until a very recent date, was owned and occupied by Joseph and Luke Averill, brothers and sons of Isaac Averill. Afterwards the part owned by Joseph or "neighbor Joe," as he was familiarly known, was purchased by John Blaisdell, whose mother was an Averill, and that owned by Luke became the property of his son. This house was the second one built on the same cellar and was burned to the ground in the spring of 1890. The cellar located near by, in the locusts, is the best preserved of any and is known as the Daniel Averill place and here in 1769 was born Solomon Averill, the grandfather of the present owner. He afterwards lived in the house which was situated on the brow of the hill near the gateway. Here was also the workshop of the cabinet makers. Several articles of furniture manufactured by them, including a desk, light-stand bureau, and some chairs, are today in the possession of some of their descendants, also a part of a violin made here and used in the old meeting house. This industry must have been quite extensive, as I have been informed that more than thirty apprentices were employed here at one time. Opposite this was the house of Jacob Averill, who descended from Nathaniel 1st, and nearby is the ancient well, which appears to be in a good state of preservation. This house was taken down and moved to the village, where it now forms the home of Mrs. Herrick on High street. Farther on, near the brook, we come to another

cellar. This is called the Nathaniel Averill place and is also the location of the wheelwright shop. One of the first pair of wheels built there came into my grandfather's possession, having been built for chaise wheels, afterwards used by my father for cart wheels. We find the next occupant of this house to be Moses Averill, son of Nathaniel, and later it was occupied by Mehitable Averill, the wife of Silas Beckford and daughter of Daniel Averill. She moved from there to the little cottage by the mill. It seems strange that no other names are given but it must have been a colony of Averills, and among them were men useful in church and active in town affairs, school teachers, a civil engineer, and we have also heard of one skilled in verse-making and fortune-telling. Indeed in examining the wills of some of the Averill forefathers one learns that they were persons likely to hold and fill important places, men of no common rank and worth.

A little farther on we come to Mile Brook, the boundary line of the Averill tract and upon this brook was built the saw mill. The actual date of its erection I have been unable to determine, but think it must have been soon after the land came into possession of John and Nathaniel Averill. The first authentic mention of it I find in the will of Nathaniel Averill who bequeathed his "half of ye saw mill" to his three sons, Nathaniel, Jacob and Jeremiah. It was afterwards owned by Jacob, then by his son Moses, who rebuilt and worked it. Later it became the property of Daniel, who sold it in 1835 to Porter Bradstreet. This is





the first time it passed out of the Averill name. It was worked by him until his death, 1849, and then became the property of Nehemiah Perkins, who repaired it and added a new wheel. In the settlement of his estate it became the property of his son, the late Austin Perkins, who ran it for many years. On the night of Feb. 22, 1891 it was burned, perhaps by the same hand which a few months later burned the Blaisdell house, so called, to the ground. The saw which was in the mill at the time it was burned was one which had lain in the attic of the house of the late Benj. Towne 45 years and was taken from the Peabody mill in 1842. It still exists and is of interest because of its connection with both mills.

The old house, whose ruins may be seen near the mill, was one which was brought from the west part of the town by kind hearted neighbors and placed upon a small plot of land staked out from the neighboring pasture, and here lived Mehitable Averill-Beckford and later her son Samuel, his wife, who was also an Averill, and their two children. Many of my listeners are familiar with the lives and characteristics of these later occupants and together with

the cottage, the mill and its surroundings will ever form one of the brightest, dearest pictures on "memories' wall." Those who never frequented the place cannot appreciate the quaint charms it holds for us, who have sat in the little house listening to the good woman's stories of other days, and when the infirmities of age approached, heard her complaints and sought to administer relief or stood under the fragrant lilacs while she called the birds to feed near her, walked through the tiny garden and inhaled the sweet scent of spicy pinks, the balm and thyme, and the rich, old damask roses, heavy with sweetness and then crossing the mill yard and on under the willows to the wasteway, where, if the water was high, we had a view of a miniature cataract. We can not help a feeling of loneliness and regret as we pass through these familiar ways. May we hope and trust that their memory at least will survive in the minds of our townspeople, and that some future historian will be able to give a complete and more perfect account than I have been able to do.

[A paper read before the Topsfield Historical Society at a field meeting held June 18, 1896.—Ed.]





## Charles H. Holmes.

### LAWYER AND POET.

By FRANKLIN BALCH.

Intention is not an attribute of reputation. Our life is what we make it. Reputation is what people think of us, and the biography of a person is in absolute control of the author, who adapts his work to the reader who will pay the highest price.

The exception to this rule may be found in the author whose object is for the higher consideration—to perpetuate to the memory whatever there is of value and interest in our local history of by-gone-days.

Four score and six years ago next Dec. 1st, 1896, there was born in the town of Alfred, York Co., Maine, the second son of Mr. John and Sarah Ann (Brooks) Holmes.

John Holmes was born in Kingston, Plymouth Co., Mass., March 28, 1773, was graduated from Brown University, 1796, admitted to the bar 1799, was a prominent member of the Mass. legislature and U. S. Senate. He was one of the most active members of the convention and chairman of the committee that framed the constitution of the state of Maine, and for many years was a trustee of Bowdoin College. He died in Portland in 1843, July 7th.

After graduating from Brown University John Holmes, influenced by the apparent advantage of practicing law among the advance guard of civilization, left his home in south eastern Massachusetts, and opened a law office at Alfred, Maine.

Immense ascendancy and unbound-

ed activity won for himself universal esteem and in 1820 when this part of Massachusetts had come to be the state of Maine, Mr. John Holmes was called upon to represent his state in the U. S. Senate, where he was known as the first Maine Senator. By this title he is best known to this day. His profound views as a statesman, and the commanding qualities of an orator, secured for him in Congress the attention and esteem of such men as Thomas H. Benton, Henry Clay and Levi Woodbury.

The year 1825 found his son, Charles Henry Holmes, entering Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. Two years later he came into Massachusetts to complete his collegiate education, and entering Brown University, Providence, was graduated Sept. 2nd, 1829, among the first in rank in his class.

We are told that while in college he manifested those characteristics resulting from more than ordinary power of application, and while hindered by the intervention of romantic and poetic nature, he possessed such powers of intellectual acquisition as are seldom observed. His standard at Brown for his first term was, "attendance 100, conduct 100, scholarship excellent." His expenses were "steward's bill \$1.68 per week, damage, breaking a pane of glass, 25 cents." This report proves him to be an accomplished classical scholar, aided by that decision of conduct and





uprightness of character that always secures success.

To these transports of fame there succeeded that phrensy so fatal to those whom nature has allowed to be the children of great men. His sincere intentions and aspirations were diverted by returning to the shadow of his own fig-tree, and opening a law office in Cornishville, Maine. Here he practiced a few years and then came again into Massachusetts. He was welcomed by Miss Harriet J. Emerson, to whom he was married in a few days. To the more sedate person it may seem that he overstepped the bounds of prudence in so hastily concluding a matter of so vast importance.

It appears that there lived in Alfred, a person by the name of Joseph Emerson. He was well acquainted with Hon. John Holmes, and watched with more than a friendly interest the welfare and advancement of young Charles.

There was born in Topsfield, Mass., 3 years after the birth of our subject, a daughter to Mr. Joseph and Lydia (Burrell) Emerson, who was named Harriet Josephene Emerson. Being the only child of a well-to-do man, she was prevailed upon to accept all the opportunities of classical instruction that were available in those days, when it was thought not entirely proper for a lady to attain an advanced classical education.

We are told that a higher education is useful only to the few, and general ignorance is neither the greatest evil nor the least to be desired; a mass of ill digested information is much more dangerous, and the increase of knowledge is but an addi-

tion to the lever by which vice dissolves the fabric of society. Not so with Miss Emerson. With the advance of her education she rose to that standard of attainment which if unjustly used, to quote her own words, "leads one to search into the hidden secrets of nature to obtain a knowledge, alike useless and forbidden, that destroyed the harmony in Eden, and condemned all unborn generations to the just but most irksome penalty of disobedience."

Public opinion considered Miss Emerson the most talented woman of the 19th century in this vicinity, and was it not natural that as she had a cousin, Mr. Joseph Emerson, living in Alfred, an intimate friend of Hon. John Holmes, that the welfare and advancement of "young Charles," *should* be watched with more than a friendly interest? This interest was communicated to Charles and Harriet, so that before they had seen each other they virtually became engaged.

There was married at Topsfield, Mass., on the 26th of March, 1836. C. H. Holmes of Cornishville, Maine, to Harriet J. Emerson of Topsfield. This is the substance of the record.

This equal and loving alliance which now-a-days often precedes, and is *concluded* with the marriage ceremony, seemed to invest her powerful lord with the authority of a parent over a submissive pupil. The writer remembers the "Squire" in the last of his life, six feet six inches tall, as he entered church on Sunday passing up the aisle to the wing pew nearest the pulpit, and it was with a boyish interest and anxiety that I sought the end of my father's pew and awaited the appearance of that "wonderful



tall man."

After marriage, Mr. Holmes made his home in Topsfield, where he remained for the last 50 years of his life. The father of Mrs. Holmes died in 1826 and left his house and part of his property to his wife and daughter, and at this house Mr. Holmes first and last resided.

As the experience of past faults is seldom imparted to those who are allured into the same career of folly, so Mr. Holmes venture to her home, "with none of the *a-la-mode*, show-off, scholastic, superfluous manner; but as a thorough, practical well doer, matter-of-fact-man, maintaining his character and position without fear."

While Mrs. Emerson lived she aided in every way to maintain union and affection in the family. In this she succeeded, *but* was nevertheless his mother-in-law.

Mr. Holmes at once assumed control of his wife's property, she giving him a promissory title to her share in case of her death, and began farming in a theoretical sort of way. He also received a lawyer's license to practice law, but most of all he practised the virtues of domestic life, and to the last may be attributed the remarkable alteration of his character and conduct. It is said that the different characters that mark the civilized nations of the globe may be ascribed to the use and abuse of reason; but we think that his effeminate luxury, which almost tended to indolence, was due to the relaxation of discipline and was only the ardent and passionate disposition manifested in college, now bursting forth unhindered by any high ambition. But we may suppose that he produced a

favorable impression among his town's people by his election to the General Court as their representative in 1837, the following year after coming into town. At this session he was placed on one of the standing committees.

Anything attendant to a person of prominence in starting on his career is of interest, and here it is not amiss to refer to a letter written by his father to Charles, upon the advent of his first election to public office. This letter is also of value as showing the feelings and inspirations of one of the most prominent of men in New England.

Thomaston, Me.

2nd Nov. 1837.

I have received dear Charles your letter announcing your election to the legislature of Mass. with much pleasure, but with some solicitude. It is naturally flattering & no doubt gratifying to you that stranger almost as you are. you should have been elected, & by the influence of age and experience, on the other hand you are, probably without intending it, embarked on the tempestuous ocean of politics for a long service. For young as you are and ardent moreover it will be a hard struggle to return. The first year will be tedious and you will resolve that it shall be the last. The election comes round, and the partiality of your friends and all the assaults of your enemies & your prospects of promotion influencing a little perhaps will combine to induce you to stand for *reelection*. Before this term shall expire you will have formed friendships, contracted alliances, and become enlisted in measures and schemes from which it





will be extremely difficult to be disengaged, you wish to be returned for your own sake. By some of those casualties to which public life is exposed, your own imprudence, treacherous friends open enemies, any or all may defeat or postpone you. By this time your feelings of ambition and revenge will be roused. You will go back *into the ranks* to strive for promotion again.

If defeated again, you will more than ever press on. You may succeed and continue to mount and soar until you will have distinguished yourself in the great council of the nation. There you will meet with more resistance, as your station will be worth competition. Suppose you defeat them all still how much sacrifice of true wealth, principle, peace & domestic indarment must have been sacrificed.

All this you will now say is crying "sour grapes!" Be it so!—And although I think my grapes have not been very sour still I am willing you should consider these remarks as the result of at least superannuated prudence, so no more of this, and if taking the *case* as it is allow me to suggest some few monitions which may serve you in your new career. Your talents will not be hid. Your relationship to one who has been so long and so much the object of public observation and animadversion, will point you out as an object of curiosity & criticism.

As there is a propensity among men and associate bodies of men, to measure in some sense the one by the other, more may be expected from you than from other new members, some too may suppose that your op-

portunities for political information have been greater than other young men. Now all this consideration may raise expectation which may not be realized.

A little caution at first will therefore be indispensible to prevent disappointment. Be *slow* then in coming out, otherwise you might speak yourself out before you get in. Never speak on any subject till you are fully prepared. Prepared or not don't speak often—never begin to speak till you have something to say and always leave off when you are done.

Never speak or think *meanly* of your adversary. A good natured hit may do very well but a well timed compliment much better. While you should never surrender principle you should never triumph over a fallen adversary.

Study well, and methodically. Your chief fault is a desultory mode, here a little and there a little without a certain perspicuous method, and when once established it will be of incalculable advantage. If defeated and mortified never pine nor be discouraged.

I have known the first essay of a young man to be an entire failure & yet there was remaining a recuperative energy which overcame and triumphed at last.

In all cases be honest in your opinion, especially appear to be so. If you seem to lack confidence in your cause you will surely fail to convince.

I am truly yours,

J. Holmes.

One session of legislative life end-



ed Mr. Holmes' political career and in the spring of 1838 he returned to private life and began to till his farm, and settle estates or any other business of a lawyer. But the absence of a large town and the peaceable, even tenor of the ways of the people in his vicinity, gave little employment in the legal line of his profession.

Connected as he was by marriage with so estimable and talented a woman, we may learn of her influence and his character by her journals so far as they pertain to the surrounding home. In this journal which she carefully kept for years, we find these words:

Jan. 1, 1835. "I have felt sad all day. This morning Charles received the melancholly news of his brother's dangerous illness and he left for Alfred this afternoon. It was sad tidings for a New Year's news. O how much I feel his absence. The man who took him to the cars has not yet returned. God forbid any accident.

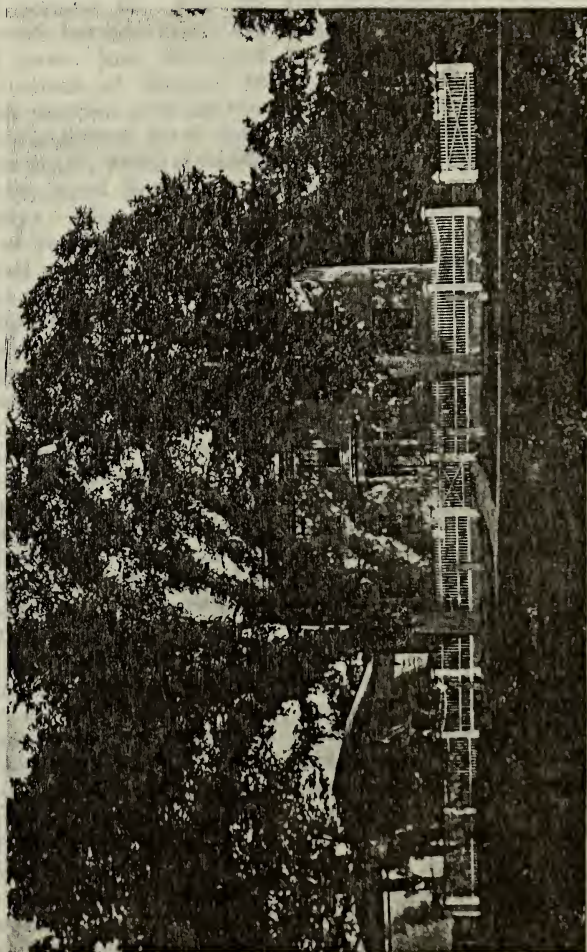
Jan. 10, 1835. "Charles sent word after tea that he should pass the evening away, having some business of importance to attend to, and that he should not return till late. It is now almost eleven and he has not come. It is a very unusual thing for him to pass an evening away from our dear and festive fireside. I will go to bed as it is so late and not wait for him any longer.

Jan. 11, 1835. "I went to bed last evening or rather night, about midnight and before I went to sleep Charles returned. He did not let me know where he was going for fear it would trouble me but sent me such a

message as would lead me to imagine, as I did that he had gone to attend to some law business, but when he came back he told me the cause of his absence. John Towle had been missing ever since ten o'clock in the forenoon, and it was supposed that he had lost his way going home. and had wandered into Wenham swamp. Several people had been looking for him all the afternoon and had returned entirely discouraged, and maintained that every effort to find him that night would be in vain. but Mr. Holmes told them that if he was found alive he must be found that night. He took two men in his sleigh and several other sleighs accompanied him and they drove as fast as possible to Wenham. This was about 6 P. M. The men at Wenham were very kind and joined in the search. A party of 25 men entered the swamp. Charles formed them into five different parties each with a guide and a lantern, and taking separate directions the search was began. One hurrah was to declare that their object was accomplished and two hurrahs to bring them to-gether. About 10 o'clock a loud shout was heard. The poor fellow was found leaning with folded arms against a tree entirely exhausted. for he had been travelling in that labyrinthian swamp all day. He was stiff with cold and would surely have frozen to death before morning. He was taken to a house near and everything done for his comfort and may God bless the people of Wenham for their true kindness, and each of those 25 men last night sought their pillows with the happiness that ever follows a kind action."







THE EMERSON-HOLMES HOUSE.



After ten years of happy married life, as all reports combine to show, Mrs. Holmes became ill. For the last four years of her life there are numerous "I have just recovered from a severe attack of illness," to be found in her journals and she was unable to care for herself for a long time before her death, which occurred Sept. 17, 1849, aged 36 years, 7 months, 25 days. She died not in the fullness of years, but endowed with intellectual genius borne far in advance of her age by deep thought, patient investigation and ever attentive research.

The dignity of virtue and the charms of beauty no more could cull or restrain the adventurous disposition of Mr. Holmes. He let his house and boarded at various places about town, passing his leisure time in a variety of adventures that would pass for fabulous if they had not occurred in real life. He served on the school board for the years 1856, 1864, and 1866, always acting as chairman. The following extracts from his school reports are interesting:

"My relations with the schools of Topsfield have been peculiarly grateful the past year. With no personal paternity myself, the affectionate yearnings of my nature were transferred to the children of my care, who became sons and daughters by adoption, looking up to me as their great supervising father."

"Miss Anna C. D. Holmes, of Ipswich, who although considered a competent teacher, did not exactly suit the 'city' people, who, nurtured in the school of republican freedom, could ill brook the stern discipline

and unfamiliar indignities perpetrated on 'them and theirs',—but one, and then another, till the whole population en masse, little and big, man, woman and child, whispered, murmured, threatened, denounced and at last rising like a volcano, burst with fiery indignation into open rebellion, kicking up a great dust in all the region round about. So frantically intense was the convulsion that the very animals and even the elements conspired in sympathetic expressiveness. The geese, whose ancestors saved Rome, with conscious political importance, loudly vociferated, quack! quack! quack! The turkey, that true *native American* with indigenous consequential pride, gobbled about calamities of foreign participation. The sheep, aroused from their quietude by the passing events, looking askance, gave a contemptuous baa! The horse indicated his *course* by a *racy*, yet positive *neigh*. Chanticleer, *crested* and *spurred*, and red with ire, from an eminence blew his clarion note of defiance; and the dog and cat, fraternizing in the common cause, *duetted* a caterwauling howl of execration. The bellicose bull 'tossed a horn' to the success of the enterprise, while the pacific guinea hen in the spirit of true kindness cried out earnestly, go back! go back! go back! Nor these alone, for Trinity River itself, that evangelical stream, swollen with rage, bursting forth in a torrent of wrathful outpouring, whirled and boiled, and eddied in irascible frothings, threatening the City mole of 'Long wharf' with demolition. To appease the tutelar Deity of the City, and





relieve it from such an impending visitation, it was judged expedient to throw the mistress over-board, Jonah-like, where upon a great calm ensued."

In 1859 there was visiting in town at Mrs. Elizabeth Perley's on High street, Miss Abbie Webster of Wood's Holl, Barnstable County. Hither Mr. Holmes was wont to go. He went with more than ordinary regularity to see Miss Webster, but great as were his talents, sincere his intentions, and unbending his probity, he was unable to carry into effect the conjunction which he so anxiously strove to produce. Mr. Holmes came home one day from visiting at her home after they had become engaged and said to Miss Welch, his housekeeper, "Miss Webster and I are done. She wanted me to give her my place before she would marry me, and I told her I wouldn't and *we are done.*"

A man in love is generally inaccessible to argument, and he can only avert it by pursuing some new object attractive both to himself and to his friends. But there is something in courage which commands respect even amid the bitterness of faction. Segur says, that peace is the dream of the wise; war is the history of man. Youth listens without attention to those who seek to lead it by the paths of reason to happiness, and rushes with irresistible violence into the arms of the phantom which lures it by the light of glory to destruction.

Mr. Holmes was an active member of the Congregational Church in Topsfield, having been admitted Nov. 6, 1853.

The Civil War began in 1861, and Mr. Holmes was very active in recruiting troops to enter the Federal army. While he was nearly ten years in advance of the age to be drafted, he did enter the army in the spring of 1864, and remained during that summer, being honored with a lieutenant's commission.

"He was so tall that it was deemed expedient to keep him from the front, so he was stationed at Boston and other places as a recruiting officer, which duty he faithfully attended to and to the satisfaction of the department."—*Salem Mercury*.

"The tallest man in the British army is Corporal Maffit, who stands six feet seven and a half inches. That is one inch shorter than Lieut. Holmes of Topsfield, who has been in our army."—*Boston Daily Advertiser*.

On his return home he went to live where he first had lived after being married, in what is now the Congregational parsonage, and cared for the land now known as the "Holmes property." He owned a meadow located "over the river" in the extreme eastern part of the town. It was at the time when horseless wagons were in common use. The hay must be brought across the river and the oxen as they entered the water had been inclined to stop, where upon it is said Mr. Holmes "hollered at them with such power that the vibration of the sound in the air struck the river with such force as to divide the water and his oxen and wagon were wont to go over on dry land."

In 1873 he made his will, giving \$500 to the Congregational Church



as a fund and the remaining value of his estate to the Sisters of Charity of the Roman Catholic Church, styled the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul. This latter bequest was made out of respect to the memory and wishes of his wife, who had been a member of the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Holmes had identified himself with the Congregational Church after coming to this town, and for a long time had given the sum of \$25 per annum for the support of the gospel. By his will this gift was made perpetual.

It is singular and perhaps highly gratifying to observe the ardent enthusiasm manifested at first by only a few members of the church to avail themselves of Mr. Holmes' house as a parsonage. The 70th annual return of a day dearer to none than himself had already vanished and soon Mr. Holmes would leave his house forever.

One afternoon two ladies might have been seen looking from the front end window of our Town hall. For want of other topics one of them remarked, "What a nice place that would be for a parsonage." The parish had already been negotiating for a parsonage but no one had mentioned this house. The idea spread rapidly; a paper was circulated and money pledged for Mr. Holmes' house. A meeting was held where the maxim that measures calculated for the benefit of future ages are hardly ever agreeable for all persons in the present, was clearly manifest.

There were many propositions suggested and other places proposed, one of which was only defeated by the moderator's deciding vote. It was remarkable to observe the vehem-

ent contention that arose upon the question of purchasing the present parsonage. It surely was not a question of price. The result which followed was most pleasant. Each one joined to make it a parsonage claimed by every one. The papers were drawn; conditions settled, and that was all.

Mr. Holmes passed away ere the house had been used for the purpose intended. He died Wednesday evening, July 14, 1886, aged 74 years, 8 months, 14 days. The funeral was held the following Saturday at the house.

The following notice of his death appeared in Salem Mercury:

**"THE TALLEST MAN IN NEW ENGLAND DEAD IN TOPSFIELD."**

Charles H. Holmes, Esq., of Topsfield, well and favorably known throughout Essex County, died at his home in Topsfield at 11 o'clock last Wednesday night. He had been sick for several months. Some time ago he sustained serious injuries by being thrown from a wagon and last week was slightly sun struck, which doubtless hastened his death. For years he was a contributor to the press, his productions in the main being of a poetical character. He was a widower, his wife having died many years before. He was held in high esteem by his townsmen, and was a member of the Congregational church."

His practice at the bar, though limited, manifested knowledge of the law. His ability far excelled his judgment, but his energy of character has unquestionably left an influence in the history of this town. In





force of expression and sarcastic tion nor directed toward objects per-  
power he was paramount among his manent or compatible with his higher  
contemporaries. but his intelligence education.  
was not appropriated with discre-



## Poems

By C. H. HOLMES.

### THE AMERICAN FLAG.

Written for a Fourth of July celebration in 1861.

Flag of my country, hail, all hail !  
As floats thy ensign to the gale,  
Thy star-lit blue, thy unique stripes,  
Our Union and redemption types—  
All hail, I say, all hail to thee,  
Palladium of our Liberty !

How swells the heart, how beams the eye,  
As we recall a scene gone by ;  
When first had dawned our nation's sun—  
Our Independence first was won—  
A conqueror thou in Freedom's war,  
And drawn in Mars' triumphal car—  
On that glad day we celebrate  
The great epochal of our fate,  
Which all our thronging memories fix  
At July Fourth, year Seventy-six.

In later times, though less the stake,  
Victor on land, and sea, and lake,  
From 'neath thy folds went up the cry  
Of glory and of victory.  
Whate'er the gage, whate'er the foe—  
Of Britain or of Mexico—  
Thus runs thy record with these powers :  
"We've met the foe and they are ours."



Nobly hast thou sustained our cause  
 In all our policies and wars ;  
 Gaining respect at home, abroad,  
 With civilized and savage horde,  
 And e'er maintaining thy first stand,  
 The pride and glory of our land !

Now clouds and darkness round us lower,  
 Yet, guarded by a spirit power,  
 That sainted and departed band,  
 The hero fathers of our land ;  
 Invoking, too, our father's God.  
 We'll "bless the hand and kiss the rod,"  
 And wearing sackcloth 'neath our mail,  
 Armed at allpoints our foe assail.

Shades of our sires, ye mighty dead,  
 Heroes whom Washington hath led,  
 Who helped our Union fabric rear,—  
 Patriot spirits, now appear,  
 And, like the spirit Cid of yore,  
 In all our battles go before !

God of our sires, "who brought them up"  
 Oh, pass from us this bitter "cup"—  
 This bitter cup with passions rife,  
 The jarring elements of strife ;  
 If not for ours for their sake save  
 The Union thou the fathers gave—  
 Hold in thy right hand still those "stars"  
 And save us from domestic wars.

Walk still midst these thy "candlesticks,"  
 And so o'errule our politics  
 That we shall be united, free,  
 From lake to gulf, from sea to sea !

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#### WILD GOOSE POND.

Near my old house, and be it known  
 That I've the oldest house in town,  
 Numbering full two hundred years  
 As by the record here appears,  
 Tho' some versed in traditions lore  
 Say 'twas a fort-house years before





And for a parsonage built anew,  
 Such too is the Emerson view  
 Who have possessed the same estate  
 Since Seventeen hundred and thirty-eight,  
 Buying it of the Capen heirs  
 Or who had charge of their affairs.  
 The Emersons we think would know  
 Whether or not the thing was so.  
 The old house stands on rising ground  
 And is as straight as can be found,  
 Resembling much, Fort-House in York,  
 Concerning which has been much talk.  
 A photograph of which you'll see  
 In Harper's New England History.  
 It has a Puritanic look  
 Rather of Holland, not mistook,  
 Of which we have the amplest proof  
 In the projecting front and roof.  
 And built thus out of compliment  
 To Holland, where the Pilgrims went  
 When persecuted to the stake  
 They fled for their religion's sake  
 And spent twelve years with their Dutch friends.  
 And here their persecution ends,  
 For Holland was the only place  
 That had a free religion base,  
 The only State in Europe too  
 That dared promulgate this broad view.  
 Were I disposed I could say more  
 About the house, its chimney, floor,  
 Or the firm brick clay mortar wall  
 Sufficient to resist a ball;  
 Of the low door, which here has swung  
 Two-hundred years since first 'twas hung.  
 And all of the et cetera  
 Connected with it any way,  
 But time and space will not allow  
 Of a more full description now.

Near the old house there is a pond  
 Not like the Scottish Lake Lomond,  
 But a smallish bit of water  
 Six square rods or such a matter.  
 Though in the Spring time flowing o'er  
 Full out an acre's space or more



And then the boys rig out their crafts  
 In tiny boats and treacherous rafts,  
 And in the Winter far and wide  
 The boys and girls come here to slide ;  
 And then it is a famous place  
 For all of the aquatic race,  
 And every kind of varmint thing  
 Which harmless is without a sting.  
 The naturalist in this abode  
 Will find the frog, snake, turtle, toad.  
 The hunter finds the musquash rat  
 By which the hatter makes the hat.  
 Sporting fisherman will find  
 Fishes of almost every kind,  
 For I have found in my research  
 Shiners, roach pickerel and perch ;  
 How they first came there, I suppose  
 'Twas on the misty wind that blows.  
 Some years ago, perhaps 'twas six,  
 The time I can't exactly fix,  
 Some strangers of the quashie race  
 Arrived here at this central place,  
 And built their home, and formed their nest,  
 And seemed determined here to rest.  
 Of course these strangers made a stir  
 With their perfume and garb of fur,  
 Resembling much the modern belle  
 In their 'fumed habits and their smell.  
 The modern beau, too, if you please,  
 Redolent with his scented grease.  
 At first the quash was very sly  
 When any person came too nigh,  
 But when a little artless girl  
 With laughing eye and sunny curl,  
 Had made the quashies comprehend,  
 She was their real social friend.  
 By placing 'fore them bread and meat,  
 The quashies then came out to eat :  
 Which verifies the simple fact,  
 And by the Bible too is backed,  
 That in proportion as we're kind,  
 The laws of love all nature bind.  
 It was so surely at the first  
 Before the earth by hate was cursed,  
 And will be inspired prophets say,





On the great millennial day,  
 When with the wolf the lamb will feed,  
 And these a little child shall lead.  
 So here these musksquash sly and wild  
 Were tamed and petted by a child.

Now I'll relate just how it came  
 That "Wild Goose Pond" obtained its name.  
 A wild goose wearied by its flight  
 Lit in this pond and spent the night,  
 And just before the break of day  
 Spread its broad wings and sped away,  
 And from this circumstance arose  
 "Wild Goose Pond's" name, with this I close

---

#### MY LOVE FOR THEE.

My love for thee is infinite,  
 It is my solace and delight.  
 Where'ere I go, what'ere I do,  
 The world's a void without thee too.  
 Inspired by thy angelic face,  
 Indeed thy every charming grace,  
 The simplest act in thee I see  
 Perfection's work—Divinity.  
 Thy heart's affection is a mine  
 Where princely wealth doth sure combine ;  
 Far more than I conceived could be  
 Enveloped in mortality,  
 Than which the fancies' light can beam  
 Is but a faint expiring gleam.  
 Darling! I love thee, yea, adore,  
 With seraph's lyre could I say more?  
 My life! my hope! my harp! thou art,  
 The cherished music of my heart.

---

#### BLACK SELIM.

Topsfield, April 4, 1858.

EDITOR NEWBURYPORT HERALD:—At the earnest request of my neighbors, superadded to my own appreciation of "departed worth," I have been induced to write in "offhand verse," an elegy on my old and faithful horse.



"Black Selim," who died in his thirty-sixth year, and who had gained a "Bucephaline" notoriety not only in Topsfield, but "the whole region round about." Will you have the kindness to insert it in your paper, and oblige

Your obedient servant,

C. H. HOLMES.

No common merit I rehearse,  
But dedicate my humble verse  
To eulogize an equine friend ;  
And of his death this notice send.

"Black Selim's" days are passed and gone ;  
He died of age last Monday morn,  
And lies where oft he took his ease,  
Between two stately ashen trees.  
He was lamented through the town,  
For everywhere was he well known ;  
And when we named "the old black horse,"  
All knew just what he meant, "of course."  
He was the village patriarch,  
The theme of wonder and remark,  
And everywhere his shape and age  
Were criticised by jockey's sage.  
He was permitted free to range,  
A better horse all round the grange,  
By road and common ne'er was seized,  
But cropped the grass just where he pleased ;  
Incurring only one disgrace,  
Of "creeping through a narrow place ;"  
'Twas mere conjecture, for his stay  
Was ne'er prolonged till break of day ;  
But circumstantial proof was strong,  
From certain vestiges along ;  
Unlike to some who scrapes get in,  
He always could get out again.  
If Spartan virtue were the rule.  
He surely was "more rogue than fool."  
His color was of blackest hue,  
Except when old, quite gray he grew ;  
From head to foot, in all his points,  
His "make" was perfect to his joints ;  
And all allowed, both far and near,  
That no horse e'er had finer ear.  
He ne'er indulged in vicious tricks.





Like many horses, nor in kicks ;  
 But without "hitching" always stood.  
 And as you'd like, so was his mood.  
 Was fleet in gig, and sure on back,  
 Could ramble, canter, gallop, rack ;  
 Was full of frolic and of fun,  
 Yet kind, and ever prompt to run ;  
 He was just suited to my mind,  
 His equal I shall never find ;  
 Was old, well tried, thus doubly dear,  
 Though in his six-and-thirtieth year ;  
 And owned by me full twenty-one,  
 As by his pedigree is shown.  
 One Billy Emerson I am told,  
 Kept him until thirteen years old,  
 A year after his death or so,  
 (And 'twas in '35 I know,) I bought him, and this time will bring  
 His age to thirty-six this Spring.  
 This horseman said he was the best  
 Of all the steeds he e'er possessed ;  
 And he had owned his thousands, too,  
 And such a horse he never knew.  
 The wondrous 'scapes that I could tell,  
 By road and field that me befell,  
 Up hill and down, through mud and mire,  
 'Cross rivers deep, and ditches dire,  
 And all the freaks I could relate,  
 Would make one laugh at any rate.  
 How oft I've rode like one bewitched,  
 And by the sport did feel enriched,  
 Boys running out to see the canter,  
 Like that of the famed "Tam O'Shanter."  
 And though I've met the middle age,  
 By maxim should be tame and sage,  
 Which says, "at forty tame or never,"  
 Yet I like races well as ever.  
 I never reached the "Hovey Place,"  
 Without enjoying one good race ;  
 There is a long and level plain,  
 Before this little farm I gain,  
 A steep and quite a sandy hill.  
 Near by a bridged and rippling rill,  
 Called from the tenants of the nook,  
 By common parlance, "Gallop's Brook ;"



And lies about a mile or so,  
 From Topsfieldville as north you go.  
 Ere this was reached he slowly went,  
 As if upon some fell intent;  
 One would have thought him in a doze.  
 Seeing between his legs and nose:  
 I knew him well—'twas his cunning.  
 Pacing slowly for his running.  
 The summit gained, he made a leap,  
 And down he dashed the hill-side steep,  
 O'er the wide bridge he madly rushed,  
 And up another hill he pushed,  
 With such furious pace and clatter,  
 The people cried, "What's the matter?"  
 The frogs dived quickly in the stream,  
 The birds flew off with frightened scream,  
 The dogs rushed out with bark and yell,  
 And horse and dogs all went pell-mell;  
 Up went the windows, from the doors  
 The hats were swung with deaf'ning roars,  
 "With bark and whoop," and loud halloo.  
 The hills re-echoed "go it, go,"  
 The gig was tossed with direful squeak,  
 Threatening the vehicle to break,  
 Sometimes on two wheels, then on one,  
 Yet right side up I always won.  
 Fond memory delights to trace  
 My trusty friend in cosy pace,  
 Associated from my youth,  
 In every phase in life in truth:  
 I call to mind the truth far back,  
 When he was styled the "bonny black,"  
 With ease could trot from my own door  
 To Alfred, seventy miles or more;  
 Each day could draw his cord of wood  
 Two miles five times from where he stood;  
 And when grown old he ne'er would flag,  
 But was the same prompt racing nag.  
 When thirty-two he drew a ton  
 Eight miles an hour, myself therein;  
 And e'en last Fall when on a tour,  
 He trotted full eight miles the hour,  
 And never needed whip or spur,  
 Whate'er the distance, near or far;  
 And yet his size and weight were small,





Being eight hundred—that was all.  
 Indeed he was a matchless steed,  
 And well deserved the “olive meed,”  
 Outstripping all of his compeers  
 In strength and bottom, speed and years.  
 As he who at the Olympia race,  
 By some misfortune lost his place ;  
 His steeds performed the accustomed round,  
 And by the judges then were crowned ;  
 Although my seat I ne’er have lost,  
 Or ever from my seat been tost,  
 And always could my steed restrain,  
 Or prompt him to the racing vein,  
 And ever had him at command,  
 With tightened rein, and “well on hand,”  
 Still let his deeds emblazoned be,  
 The meed to him and not to me,  
 Sufficient praise for me to own  
 The best of steeds, and this alone,  
 Although some persons may say fie  
 At my sentimentality,  
 Yet I this weakness will confess.  
 For “Selma’s” death in stoic virtue brave,  
 I dropt a tear upon his grave.

---

#### FOR SALE.

Who ever wants a country seat,  
 Removed from summer’s dust and heat,  
 With a wide common right between  
 The road and house in living green,  
 Shaded by stately ashen trees  
 And shut out from the noxious breeze,  
 Let him just leave the country road  
 And step across to my abode,  
 A view of which will here be seen  
 A photographic view I wean.

Terms easy to the man who’d buy,  
 At any rate one can but try.

C. H. HOLMES.

Topsfield, May 25. 1885.

*Salem Gazette.*



# FARM LANDS

## AT AUCTION.

The Heirs of Stephen Perley say  
 On THURSDAY, 23d of May,  
 At 10 A. M., they'll sell th'estate  
 Of Stephen P., of Topsfield late.  
 This Farm lies in a quiet nook,  
 Almost surrounded by Pye-Brook.  
 Save on the line to this abode,  
 Along Low's Mill and Boxford road;  
 And is about a mile or so  
 From Topsfield Church as North you go;  
 Though to the farthest point, by Clapp's,  
 The distance is two miles, perhaps,  
 Containing, as the Deeds express.  
 One hundred Acres, more or less.  
 Here on this ancient place one finds  
 The soils and growths of different kinds,  
 Peat, Pasture, Wood, Field, Meadow Land,  
 From fertile soil to barren sand,  
 These we've arranged in shape and size,  
 To suit the purchaser who buys  
 From thirty acres down to three,  
 Just as the quality may be.  
 The man who'd like a quiet life,  
 (Save love-spats from his darling wife,)  
 And farm, or hunt, or sport the brook,  
 Will just turn in and take a look.  
 Terms, one-fifth Cash, the auction day,  
 The rest, in thirty days to pay.  
 To see this farm, whoever comes,  
 Will please to call on C. H. HOLMES,  
 Or, on your servant, S. D. HOOD,  
 Who's Auctioneer, 'tis understood.

S. D. HOOD, Auctioneer.

Topsfield. May 11, 1867.





## The McKenzie Family in Topsfield.

By ALFRED MCKENZIE.

Read before the Historical Society by Miss Marietta Clark.

The ancestors of the subject of this paper were racially traceable back to the Scots who came by the way of Spain into Ireland early in the Christian era, for when St. Patrick, the Italian missionary, was there in the fifth century, he speaks of them as the Regeels (Rulers) and of the common people as Hybernigenal. The name Scot, rendered from Celtic, means Wanderer but taken from the German of Scythia (Scutten) would signify Scythian race. But certainly they were a very energetic people and remarkable for making room for themselves as they ruled the country till it took the name of Scotia and retained it for many centuries.

About the sixth century they wandered into Argyleshire, a district of the country known since the eighth century as Scotland. They increased there in numbers till they formed the kingdom of Dalsiade. Thus there came to be three kingdoms within the bounds of North Britain, that of the Northern Picts, or people of the woods, Southern Picts and the Scots.

Sometime near the beginning of the eighth century (730 A. D.) the Northern Picts quarreled and went to war with the Southern Picts. The Scots were appealed to and gave aid to the Northern Picts; thus began a war which lasted more than a century. A reverse to the Scots induced them to call over their kindred from Ireland, and after a long strug-

gle with both the Northern and Southern Picts, the Scots became master of the country, and in 843 A. D. crowned Kenneth, "the hardy" King of the Scots, down by the Scot water or Forth.

This is the event known in history as the Scottish conquest.

The stone upon which this king was crowned was called Lia Fial or "Stone of Destiny." It was carried to England by Edward the First in the year 1296, and now forms a part of the coronation seat. Queen Victoria was crowned upon it.

The crest and armorial bearings of the family this paper concerns, appears none other than that of the Scots. The crest was the face of the sun in a halo of light; and the armorial bearings, a shield held by two persons; one hand holds the shield and the other a lighted torch. Upon the shield a buck's head; all of which was crowned by a helmet, beneath inscribed in latin "Lucio non Uro" (Light, not Darkness).

When in the year 81 of the Christian era, Agricola invaded North Britain; it was inhabited by twenty-one aboriginal tribes or clans.

The introduction of clanship and tartans seems to be beyond the reach of history, but Logan in his Scottish Gael gives the following extract from the charge and discharge of John Bishop of Glasgow, treasurer to King James III, 1471:

"Ane elne and ane halve of blue Tartane to lyne his gowne of cloth

## THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The history of the United States is a subject of great interest and importance. It is a subject which has attracted the attention of the world, and which has been the subject of many valuable works. The history of the United States is a subject which has attracted the attention of the world, and which has been the subject of many valuable works.

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of gold."

£1 10s (Scots). from John, Earl of Ross, is 1463.

I have not been able to ascertain After the forfeiture of the Lords of the Isles, the clan, like all others in the west, became independent.

"The Scottish Clans" I find a map There is a tradition in the MacKenzie family that the Topsfield MacKenzies are directly descended from the Earl of Seaforth.

of Scotland divided into clans in the The fighting force of the MacKenzies is given by Forbes as 2500 men, adding those of the Earl of Cromarty and the Laids of Gairloch, Skatwell, thirty-one written below, probably the principal ones, as many more are marked out on the map. The same book gives a list of ninety-six clans and families with their tartans.

Far up in the north of Scotland we find the clan of MacKenzie. The descent of the chief of this clan—

"MacKenneth, great Earl of the North,  
The Lord of Loch Carron, Glensheil and Seaforth"

is of pure Scoto-Gaelic descent, with a strain of Irish as asserted by Douglas and others.

Colin, eleventh chief, fought bravely for Queen Mary at the battle of Langside, for which he was afterwards pardoned by the Regent Murray.

Kenneth, his eldest son by Barbara Grant of that ilk, was raised to the peerage in 1609 as Lord MacKenzie of Kintail. Colin, their eldest son, was created Earl of Seaforth in 1623.

In Robertson's "Index of Missing Charters" there is a Crown charter of Confirmation by David II for the lands of "Kintale" in 1344 when a grant of that and other lands by William, Earl of Ross, to Reginald, son of Roderick de Insulis, dated 1342, 4th July is confirmed. In MacKenzie's "History of the Clan" the earliest date which can be assigned for its acquisition of Kintail

The war cry of the MacKenzies was "Tulach Ard," a mountain near castle Donnan, the strong hold of the clan anciently.

The badge of the MacKenzies and MacLeans was in Gaelic "Cuillion," in English "Holly."

I do not know the extent of their lands, but there were but two clans north of them.

The great attachment of the clansmen to their chieftain is shown by the following incident. "In 1778 Edinburgh was startled by what was known as the "Affair of the Wild Macraes," some hundreds of whom had enrolled in the Seaforth Regiment of Highlanders formed in 1778 by Kenneth, the Earl of that title ("that is, the head of the MacKenzie clan") and which mutinied at Edinburgh on hearing that they had been sold to the East India company.

General Skene, Lord Macdonald and others proved to the men that their complaints were groundless and the affair was settled. The regiment then marched, with pipes playing, to Holyrood, and afterwards sailed for India on what proved a fatal voyage to the MacKenzies and Macraes, for





ere St. Helena was in sight Lord Seaforth died and then a great grief, with homesickness, fell upon his clansmen, so of the thousand who sailed from the British Isles, 230 perished at sea, and only 390 were able to carry arms when they began the march to Chingleput.

From the history of the MacKenzie clan we will now pass to that of our Topsfield MacKenzies.

Enoch MacKenzie, the father of John and grandfather of John's progeny, was born in Inverness, Scotland, about the year seventeen hundred and fifty-eight, and was the second son of a family of five children, three sons and two daughters. The oldest son, in accordance with the custom of that country and England in families of some means, was provided for by giving him a military education. Thus was Alexander the oldest trained, finally entering the army with the commission of a lieutenant. The second son, Enoch, was sent to Edinburgh for a university course preparatory for some profession. In the early part of his course, war between England and the American colonies began and the lieutenant was called into the service and sent to America. At that time the Clyde was navigable only to Greenock for vessels of any considerable size. A transport having arrived bound for the American colonies, to take the mails and by press-gangs to replenish the English army and navy, Enoch, with a college companion, went down to deliver on board the transport, letters to his brother the lieutenant. They were very courteously received and invited to go below and inspect the vessel. On

arriving below decks both were put in irons. Ordinarily their social position would have kept them free from such a seizure and they little expected such treatment. In due time the transport put to sea and Enoch and his companion were put under military drill. To this they concluded, for their present comfort, to submit, but to fight for England against America, never.

Arriving on the American coast, the transport was pursued by an American privateer and taken. When taken the two young men were found below in irons. Enoch always congratulated himself and praised his companion for their decisions. When they were called for action they refused to obey and not even the threat of suffering the penalty of traitors would induce them to comply. They were therefore ironed below. The transport was taken into Boston harbor and a part of the crew were sent to Salem as prisoners of war. Among these was Enoch. At that early time of the war there was no particular provision made for detaining prisoners of war except in the large towns, and they relieved themselves and the tedium of the prisoners, by allowing themselves to be selected by farmers to work for their board till exchanged. Out of an early number sent to Salem, Mr. Emerson, who resided at the north end of the common in Topsfield, had selected one who was of a dignified bearing and a gentleman of culture. Hearing of another arrival, the following market day, Mr. Emerson, wishing to find a fit associate for the one he had, called to view them. Seeing one of a more intelligent cast



than the rest although quite young, he approached him, informing him of his desire, with which the prisoner readily complied. Mr. Emerson with his selection started upon his journey home. Soon engaging him in conversation he found his judgment fully confirmed. When arriving near the end of their journey, just before turning off the main street to the house, the first prisoner, in his anxiety to learn the news, which in those times traveled slowly, had walked out to meet Mr. Emerson; just as they were abreast, the young man having finished an earnest conversation, turned his head to the pedestrian and sprang directly upon him. Mr. Emerson was at first dumbfounded, but in a moment relieved and delighted at hearing Enoch exclaim "brother—Alexander"! Here was his brother the lieutenant, who had been previously taken prisoner, and was awaiting an exchange of officers of his grade.

Up to this time the English had refused exchange on double grounds; first that we were rebels; second a like commission of ours was not an equivalent of theirs. This delay gave ample time for the two brothers to deliberate upon their future course. Alexander could see no possible chance for the colonies, in their weakness, to succeed against so powerful a nation as England, and in case of failure if he entered our service his fate would be the gallows. The younger had determined from the first to enlist in the American service during the war, however it might terminate, but to remain with his brother till the question of his exchange should be settled. When

at length that occurred, Alexander appended the condition, that he, having relations in the American Army, would accept an exchange only on the condition, that he be assigned to the East India service during the continuance of the American war. This was complied with and subsequently confirmed by letters received from him dated from that place. Enoch immediately enlisted in the Continental army, served to the end of the war and received an honorable discharge.

Topsfield being the only town in which he had made acquaintances he therefore passed his furloughs there and some of his time in a family of one of its soldiers, an acquaintance formed in the army, and who had daughters. This led to an event which is not uncommon to young men, even today, which, in the sum of time crystallized into six enteties, three sons and three daughters; John, William and Abraham; Catharine, Susan and Mary. John was born during his father's brief residence in Topsfield, the others in Londonderry, N. H., where he remained till his family exceeded the capacity of his farm, when he removed to Waltham, Vermont, where he and his family, except John, passed the remainder of their days. John remained in Topsfield till he went to an apprenticeship with a wheelwright, in Lynn. At the end of that service, he married and established himself in the business of his trade in Lynn; but, possessing a marked mechanical genius, he soon added that of carpentry, joinery and millwright, which trades he successfully followed several years till in-





duced to purchase a farm in Topsfield and move there. At this time he had two children, having soon after attained his majority married Elizabeth Searle, the daughter of a puritan from England who came here about the year sixteen hundred and thirty-eight to enjoy in freedom his religion, and settled in what has been known as Newbury—Oldtown. Being a well-to-do farmer he gave his children, in accordance with puritanic conceptions, a good education in the more solid and practical branches; but Elizabeth, being energetic and enterprising, ventured into the higher grades and therefore was instructed much above the average females of her time. Her activity induced her to follow teaching till she married. She was a kind mother and still held her team of seven boys well in hand, always commanding their respect, and with several, almost reverence.

She was skilled in all the household duties of that time, which were much more complete than today, as they comprised spinning, weaving, and in her case, the results of the loom could be shaped into the required garments and the needle work deftly performed.

Her moral instructions were of the sternest stoical character. Shun all the vices and tell the truth whatever the consequences. She was very studious, always inclining to weighty literature; also possessing a fair talent for music, sketching and conversation as well. Samuel S., the oldest son of John and Elizabeth, in his earliest boyhood gave signs of the possession of a very diversified genius, comprehending many of the

sciences, prominently, metaphysics, philology and esthetics. In the science of delineation he was known to all in the neighborhood. The work-shop of a plow-maker stood near the little red school house in the north part of the town and on the street fronting the latter. Through the large folding doors could readily be observed what passed within, and frequently the hourly habits of the occupants.

One morning there appeared sketched on these doors, a drawing of what had transpired the previous night. The proprietor full sized with his most conspicuous physical peculiarities; a tumbler in his upraised hand, the jug sedately seated upon the bench, and his striker with equally distinguishable physical characteristics, with upturned eye grudgingly viewed the departure of the contents of the tumbler and anxiously awaiting his turn. For the remainder of the school term the young rogue found his safety by way of the fields. In later years, while following the cordwainer's trade, ever impelled by a love of study and research, he took up philosophy, chemistry, astronomy, meteorology, metallurgy, horology, hydrostatics, mathematics plain and mixed, in as confused a manner as here presented and as old treatises came to his hand, always seeking an old and exhaustive work containing between two covers all that was then known and perhaps all known today, published under the present mode of diverseness, each requiring as much expenditure of time without then obtaining the whole problem. This he ever contended. Therefore he had few books, and a



teacher, never, save a little time on the first rudiments of each study. He had the mechanical ability to make all the instruments he required for experiments in the various sciences mentioned and others, and when entering another to gain a livelihood, those needed in its pursuit, such as instruments for surveying, in which he was occupied in connection with watch and clock repairing, till the close of his life.

He always took great interest in music, was well informed in thorough base and its framework and could present it with great clearness, but its soul he never could express. Worthy of notice in this sketch is Addison, the sixth son of the family.

He suffered through life from poor health which confined him to a light vocation. Therefore he took up that of shoemaking, but not finding enough in it for mental occupation, and having viewed the external of a locomotive standing upon a railroad track, on his return home employed his leisure in an effort to make one. From the external his genius readily suggested what the interior must be. Procuring the necessary material soon a complete working model about six inches long, and a track about two feet in diameter, were finished. Tiring of his present condition he packed engine and track into a hand bag and departed for a locomotive factory at Lowell or Lawrence, immaterial to him which. Finding one he entered the counting room and applied for employment; being asked if he had been in the employ of a machine shop, he answered no but had a working model

and a track which he had made without help. This aroused the curiosity of the agent and he requested to see it. Soon it was steamed up and gracefully spinning around the track. The agent asked his terms which were his board till more could be paid. The agent desired him to follow and he would procure him a boarding place, which done he commenced work in the factory. At the end of a year he was receiving full pay and put upon finishing work. This continued till the second year of the war when an officer came into the factory inquiring if they had a hand capable of constructing an hydrostic appliance of sufficient power to draw two foot bolts out of oak timber. The officer was from the Boston navy yard, where they had been trying to accomplish this work and had failed.

Addison was thought to be capable and was applied to; he said he would try if he could have his own way and do all the work himself.

This was complied with and within ten days the machine built, working with complete success. From thence, for a time, he was employed by the government adjusting monitor engines. Franklin, the seventh son, in order to give him a better opportunity to develop a musical talent and obtain instruction, at the age of thirteen was placed in an excellent family of a green grocer and in his employ. He was soon placed under instruction both in vocal music and the piano forte, with one of the best teachers in Boston to receive lessons until his twenty-fourth year, but no tuition was required of him the last four





years, as he served his teacher as solo singer. He graduated a professor of music. In the Spring of his twenty-fourth year he caught cold and from the effects of it, in the Fall was translated to a higher sphere, which he pre-eminently merited by his virtuous and moral life.

Enoch's family leaves male issue in the third generation of one, John's of one and the prospect of only one for the fourth. Then the inquiry may be raised, has Enoch's progeny been a failure? Yes, so far as continuing the name is concerned; but to the public weal certainly not, nor to themselves. For John's family, which is now prominently under consideration, a family of seven boys set afloat in the world without the helm even of an elementary education, amidst the temptations of their surroundings, not one of them fell into vicious habits, nor at any time in their lives were under the influence of intoxicants, or participants in the popular vices; but each and all striving to supply their deficiencies of early schooling, or for the love of study and knowledge and to be able to demonstrate it to themselves. Their lack of an ambition, seemingly to turn it to a financial account, would suggest that their acquisitions came too late in life, passed its ambitious period for public notoriety. Or may be, by virtue of an ante natural law, certainly in mechanics, how in other branches? Some were defective in metaphysics while others journeyed on to, if not through, occult science. Was it that a part adhered to a deductive process of investigation, to which the Scotch so preternaturally cling? Or

with others by the inductive method, either instinctively or otherwise, adopted even in boyhood?

#### NOTE.

Here let me add my own personal tribute to the character of Mr. Samuel MacKenzie. I have never felt that full justice has been done his memory. It is perhaps little wonder that in his later years when his mind had become broken by reason of the infirmities of old age, poor, old and solitary, that to the younger and more unthinking portion of the community he should have become somewhat of an object of merriment. Then he thought he could sing. It did seem strange, when there were so many things he could do, that he might almost be called a genius, that he should take more pride in his musical ability than in anything else. This was one of the strange contradictions of human nature.

But years ago, when in his prime, it has been told me that no man was more respected in town than Mr. Samuel MacKenzie. He represented Topsfield in the legislature in 1852 and was a member of the board of selectmen in 1853-4-5 and 6.

And as far as I personally knew him and have been able to ascertain; Topsfield was amply justified in her selection. Peculiarities he had indeed. His opinions often had the crudeness of the solitary student; there was also in his character a certain Scotch obstinacy and perversity of opinion, which was often most trying even to his friends. Nevertheless, he was, I believe in moral character and religious principle, far above the ordinary individual. 1



find it difficult to put in words just what the impression which in this respect he always made upon me. "Except ye become as little children, ye cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." It was this childlikeness, this simplicity of integrity, which I felt in him. I have never seen it in the same degree in any other individual. He was guileless, honorable and high-minded, simply because he could not help it. To him there was no other course. It is a broad statement, not to be made lightly, yet I think I am justified in saying that Mr. Samuel MacKenzie never did a mean thing. Surely a worthy descendant of the Scottish Highlanders.

"Nowhere beats the heart so kindly  
As beneath the tartan plaid."

MARIETTA CLARK.







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## BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

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FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE MINISTRY OF THE REV. DANIEL BRECK,  
NOVEMBER 17, 1779, UNTIL THE DISMISSAL MAY 5, 1841,  
OF THE REV. JAMES F. McEWEN.

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COMMUNICATED BY GEO. FRIS. DOW.

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"On the 17th day of November, 1779, Came the Rev<sup>nd</sup> — Chandler of Rowley west Parish; and the Rev<sup>nd</sup> George Lesslie of Lyne Brook Parish in Ipswich. And the Rev<sup>nd</sup> Elizur Holyoake, Pastor of the first Parish in Boxford. And the Rev<sup>nd</sup> — Lothrop, Pastor of the Church of the Old North, (so call<sup>d</sup>) in Boston, and the Rev<sup>nd</sup> John Treadwell Pastor of the first Church in Lynn, and the Rev<sup>nd</sup> Benja Wadsworth Pastor of the first Parish in Danvers, with their Delagates. The Solemnity began with Prayer. Mr. Treadwell was the mouth of y<sup>e</sup> Congregation. Mr — Lothrop Preached the Sermon from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Corinthians, 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter & the 5<sup>th</sup> verse:—for we Preach not our Selves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your Servents, for Jesus Sake. Mr Lesslie gave the Charge. Mr Holyoak gave the Right hand of fellowship. Mr Chandler Pray<sup>d</sup>. After wards a Suitable Hyme was Sung, and the Blessing given and the Solemnity Concluded."



## 2 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

### BAPTISMS.

Isaac Averel his Luke	Nov <sup>r</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup> , 1779.
It being the first Child y <sup>e</sup> Rev <sup>nd</sup> M <sup>r</sup> Breck Baptized after his Ordination		
Daniel Boardman his John	"	28,
A daughter of John Boardman by y <sup>e</sup> name of Elizabeth	"	"
A child of Dan <sup>l</sup> Hood by y <sup>e</sup> name of Elizabeth	Feb <sup>y</sup>	6, 1780.
A child of Jonathan Chapman of Linebrook, by y <sup>e</sup> name of Jonathan Perkins, and	April	23,
A child of Nathaniel Fisk by y <sup>e</sup> name of Lydia	"	"
A child of David Towne by y <sup>e</sup> name of David	"	30,
A child of Nathanael Averill, Jun <sup>r</sup> by y <sup>e</sup> name of Ammi	May	7,
A child of Stephen Towne by y <sup>e</sup> name of Hepsey	"	21,
A child of John Gould by y <sup>e</sup> name of David	June	18,
A child of John Perkins by y <sup>e</sup> name of John	July	2 <sup>d</sup> ,
A child of Eben <sup>r</sup> Goodhue by y <sup>e</sup> name of Samuel	"	9,
A child of Moses Conant by y <sup>e</sup> name of Lois	"	16,
A child of John Balch by the name of Rebekah	August	20,
Humphrey, a son of Israel Clark Jun <sup>r</sup>	"	27,
Abigail, a daughter of Samuel Fisk	Nov.	26,
James, a son of Eleazer Lake Jun <sup>r</sup>	Jan <sup>y</sup>	7, 1781.
Sarah, daughter of Robert Balch	March	25,
Betty, daughter of Oliver Perkins	April	29,
Daniel, son of Ephraim Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	"	"
Susannah, daughter of Joseph Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	June	17,
Sarah, daughter of Jacob Towne	July	1 <sup>st</sup> ,
John, son of Will <sup>m</sup> Estie	August	12,
Ruth, daughter of Philemon Foster of y <sup>e</sup> Chh. in Linebrook	Sep <sup>r</sup>	2,
Moody, son of Dan <sup>l</sup> Clarke	"	16,
Bishop, son of Daniel Boardman	Nov.	11,
Mary, daughter of Nathanael Smith	"	18,
Becca, daughter of John Gould	Feb <sup>y</sup>	10, 1782.
Lydia, daughter of Nathanael Averell	March	25,
Ebenezer, son of Nathanael Fisk	April	14,
Matte, daughter of Moses Conant of Linebrook	May	5,
Amos, a son &		
Hitte, a daughter of John Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	Aug <sup>t</sup>	4,
Sara, daughter of David Towne and		
Allen, a son &		
Polly, a daughter of Daniel Porter	Oct.	6,





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 3

Stephen, a son of Step <sup>n</sup> Towne	Oct.	27, 1782.
Polly, a daughter &		
Daniel, a son of Daniel Dodge	Nov.	10,
and also		
Rebekah, daughter of Zaccheus Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	"	"
Anna, daughter of Zaccheus Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	March	2, 1783.
Martha, daughter of Joseph Cree and		
William, son of Philip McKensie	April	20,
Billy, son of Oliver Perkins, and		
Stephen, son of Nathanael Smith	May	4,
Rachel, daughter of Jacob Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	June	22,
Ruth, daughter of Ephraim Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	July	20,
Sally, daughter of Samuel Fisk	August	3,

Nabby &

Rhoda, daughters of David Hobbs	"	17,
Jacob, son of Benja <sup>n</sup> Perley	Sep.	21,
Ruth, daughter of John Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	"	28,
Moses Perley, son of Daniel Clarke	Jan <sup>y</sup>	4, 1784.
Daniel, son of Daniel Boardman	"	18,
Daniel, son of Daniel Hood	Feb <sup>y</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> ,

Miriam, wife of Cap<sup>t</sup> Nehemiah Herrick, and their children in the following order:

Polly, a daughter  
Hannah, a daughter  
Joseph, a son,  
Edy, a daughter  
Nehemiah, a son

The above were baptized at Cap<sup>t</sup> Herrick's house on account of his wife's weak & declining state, She was at the same time received into full communion

	Feb <sup>y</sup>	9,
Dorothy, daughter of Nathanael Averill	April	2,
Dilly, daughter of Robert Balch	May	16,
David, son to Nathana <sup>l</sup> Fisk	June	6,
John, son to John Dwinell	Agust	1 <sup>st</sup> ,
Nathanael, son to Philemon Foster of New Boston	Oct <sup>r</sup>	17,
Joseph, son to David Towne	Nov <sup>r</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> ,
Sara, Daughter to Eleazer Lake Jun <sup>r</sup>	"	28,
Elizabeth, Daughter to Zacheus Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	March	20, 1785.
Mehitabel, daughter to Joseph Cree &		
Mehitabel daughter to Benja <sup>m</sup> Emmerson,	April	3 <sup>d</sup> ,
Sannuel Son to Samuel Gould	"	24,
Elizabeth daughter to Philemon Foster of y <sup>e</sup> Chh. in Linebrook	May	22 <sup>d</sup> .



#### 4 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

George, Son to David Hobbs	July	31, 1785.
Sara, Daughter to Joseph Towne and		
John Son to Philip McKensie	Aug <sup>t</sup>	21,
Jacob, Son to Oliver Perkins	Sept	11,
John Son to John Gould	"	25,
Elijah Son to Stephen Towne and		
Polly daughter to Elisha Perkins	Oct <sup>r</sup>	2 <sup>d</sup> ,
Betsy, Daughter to Stephen Pearly and		
Molly Daughter to Daniel Gould	"	9,
Will <sup>m</sup> Son to Moses Conant of Linebrook	"	16,
Ebenezer, Son to Daniel Dodge	Nov.	6,
Mary, Daughter and		
Ezra, Son to Ezra Perkins	"	"
Jacob, Son to Jacob Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>	"	"
Jere &		
Francis sons &		
Dorothy a daughter to Benj <sup>m</sup> Hood	"	20,
Benja <sup>m</sup> son to Benja <sup>m</sup> Emerson	"	27,
Nathaniel, son to Ezra Perkins	Jan <sup>y</sup>	29, 1786.
Betsey, Daughter to Dan <sup>l</sup> Boardman	March	19,
Benjamin, son to Robert Perkins 3 <sup>d</sup>	"	"
Polly, Daughter to Abraham Hobbs	April	9,
Betsey, Daughter to Robert Balch	"	"
Moses, son to Nathan <sup>l</sup> Averill	June	26,
Mehitebel, daughter to Thomas Foster of Linebrook	Decem.	3,
Joseph, son to Joseph Towne		
at his house the child being dangerously sick	Febr <sup>y</sup>	1, 1787.
Elizabeth, daughter to Daniel Breck	"	"
Lucy, daughter to Sam <sup>l</sup> Gould	March	11,
Fanny, daughter to Stephen Perley	"	18,
Nathan Ames &		
Abraham, sons to Abraham Foster Jun <sup>r</sup>	April	15,
Prisee, daughter to Stephen Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>		
by y <sup>e</sup> Rev <sup>d</sup> M <sup>r</sup> Holyoke	June	10,
Luke, son to David Towne	"	24,
Nabby, Daughter to David Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	July	15,
Jacob, Daughter (son) to John Dwinnell	Sept <sup>r</sup>	30,
Huldah, Daughter to Zach <sup>s</sup> Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>		
By the Rev. M <sup>r</sup> Frisbie	Nov.	11,
Mary, Daughter to Tho <sup>s</sup> Porter	Decem.	2,
Edward Allen Son to Ditto	Jan <sup>y</sup>	27, 1788.
Daniel, Son to Daniel Breck	Febr <sup>y</sup>	17,
Nabby, Daughter to Abra <sup>m</sup> Foster Jun <sup>r</sup>	"	24,





Daniel,	}	children of Aaron Kneeland	March	2, 1788.
Aaron,				
Mary,				
John,				
Moses,				
Ezra,				
<hr/>				
Sarah, daughter to David Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>			"	30,
Amos, son to Robert Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>			April	13,
Nehemiah, son to Aaron Kneeland			May	18,
Lydia Daughter to John Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>			July	6,
Susanna Daughter to abraham Hobbs			Oct.	12,

May 26, 1788. "The Chh. met, & having attended to the renewal of the pastor's request for a dismission, consented to it, & voted an acceptance of what the Com'ttee had prepared as a recommendation. They then proceeded to the choice of Mr Jacob Kimball as Clerk, to record the votes of the Chh. and having in a very affectionate & solemn manner united in prayer, the pastor & brethren, parted."

"Topsfield, November 12th, 1789. This day convened the Reverend Gentlemen before requested to sit in council, (Mr Oliver excepted) with the delegates of their churches, & ordained Mr Asahel Huntington to the pastoral office in this place.

Mr Nott [of Franklin, Conn.] made the introductory prayer—Mr Hart [of Preston, Conn.] Preached a sermon from Heb. 12<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses"—Mr Smith [of Middleton] made the consecrating prayer—Mr Cleaveland [of Ipswich] gave the charge—Mr Holyoke [of Boxford] gave the right hand of Fellowship—Mr Dana [of Ipswich] made the concluding prayer."

Esther, daughter to Robert Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	Jan.	17 <sup>th</sup> , 1790.
Zaccheus, son to Zaccheus Gould J <sup>r</sup>	Feb.	28 <sup>th</sup> ,



# 6 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Sally, Daughter of Stephen Perley	Feb.	28 <sup>th</sup> , 1790.
Lucy, Daughter to Benj <sup>n</sup> Emerson, Boxford,	"	"
Lucy Kimball Perley, Daughter to Solomon Perley of Boxford offered for Baptism by M <sup>r</sup> Jacob Kimball grandfather to y <sup>e</sup> child,	Oct <sup>r</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup> ,
Nathaniel, Son to Daniel Bordman	"	31 <sup>st</sup> ,
Thomas, son of Thomas Porter	Jan.	9 <sup>th</sup> , 1791.
John, a Son of Abraham Foster Jun <sup>r</sup>	Feb.	13 <sup>th</sup> ,
Asa, son of Aaron Kneeland	"	27 <sup>th</sup> ,
David, son of John Gould	March	27 <sup>th</sup> ,
David, son of David Perkins	Aug <sup>st</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup> ,
Allen, Son of Robert Balch .	"	"
Jacob, son of John Hood Jun <sup>r</sup>	Jan.	1 <sup>st</sup> , 1792.
Hannah Potter, Daughter of Stephen Perkins	Aug <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> ,
Elijah, son of Thomas Porter	Oct <sup>r</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> ,
Ira, a son, &		
Sally, a Daughter of Daniel Porter	"	28 <sup>th</sup> ,
Humphrey, a son of Zac Gould Jun <sup>r</sup>	"	"
A child of Daniel Bordmans	June	1793.
Samuel, Son of Aaron Kneeland		
Asa, son of Samuel Gould		
Patty, Daughter of John Gould		
Nehemiah, son of Nehemiah Cleaveland		
—— of Stephen Perkins	Aug <sup>st</sup>	
Bradstreet, son of Benjamin Emerson	Sept.	
Cynthia Cummings, Daughter of y <sup>e</sup> Rev <sup>d</sup> Joseph Cummings Deceased By y <sup>e</sup> wife of Robert Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>		
John, Son of Ezra Perkins	Oct <sup>r</sup>	
John, Son of John Hood Jun <sup>r</sup>		
Samuel, Son of Aaron Conant		
Eunice, Daughter of Aaron Conant		
Aaron, Son of Aaron Conant		
Alethea, Daughter of Asahel Huntington	March	1794.
Nehemiah, Son of Robert Perkins Jun <sup>r</sup>	April	
Benjamin, Son of Jacob Towne Jun <sup>r</sup>		
John, Son of Zaccheus Gould	May	1795.
Ester, Daughter of Samuel Gould		
Stephen, Son of Stephen Perkins		
Mary, Daughter of Elisha Perkins		
Clarissa &		
Bestsy, Daughters of Cornelius Gould	Augst	
Anna &		
Ruth, Twins, Daughters of John Hood Jr		





Benjamin, Son of Joseph Cree		
Elisabeth, Daughter of Joseph Cree		
John, a son of Joseph Cree		
Nathaniel, Son of Aaron Conant		
Elisabeth, Daughter of Ezra Perkins	Feby	8 <sup>th</sup> , 1796.
John, Son of John Gould Jr	April	1 <sup>st</sup> ,
William Addle, Baptized, offered by Eliezer Lake		
Elisha, Son of Asahel Huntington	May	15 <sup>th</sup> ,
Betsy, Daughter of Stephen Perkins	Oct.	26 <sup>th</sup> ,
Humphry, Son of Zaccheus Gould	Sept.	17 <sup>th</sup> , 1797.
William, Son of Mr. Tenny	Oct <sup>r</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> ,
Betsey, Daughter of Robert Perkins Jr	Jan <sup>y</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup> , 1798.
William Neal, Son of Nehemiah Cleaveland Esq	May	20 <sup>th</sup> ,
David, Son of John Hood Jr		
William Porter, Son of Aaron Kneeland	June	
Asahel, Son of Asahel Huntington	August	
Betsey, Daughter of Deac. John Gould	June	1799.
Joseph Porter, son of Cornelius Gould	July	
Eleazer, Son of Zaccheus Gould	August	26 <sup>th</sup> ,
Sally, Daughter of Samuel Gould	Nov <sup>r</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup> ,
Richard, a son of John Hood Jr		
Hezekiah, Son of Asahel Huntington	August	17 <sup>th</sup> , 1800.
Mercy, Daughter of David Perkins Jr		
Sarah, Daughter of Moses Averell deceased	Oct <sup>r</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> ,
Lydia		
Phebe	} Daughters of Moses Bradstreet	" 12 <sup>th</sup> ,
Cynthia		
Mary, Daughter of John Hood Jr	Nov <sup>r</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup> ,
David		
Nabby		
Samuel	} Children of David & Hitty Cummings	March 29, 1801.
Pamela		
Sylvester		
Hiram		
Moses		
Haskell	} Children of Simon Gould Jr	May 31 <sup>st</sup> ,
Sally		
Mary, Daughter of John Balch		
Charles		
Polly	} Children of Thomas Perkins	Aug <sup>st</sup>
Wesley		
Irena		
Hiram		
Phebe		
Anna	} Daughters of John Batchelder Jr	Sept <sup>r</sup>



## 8 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

William, Son of Aaron Conant		
Cynthia, Daughter of Eli Brown	Oct <sup>r</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> , 1801.
Eunice, Daughter of Moses Bradstreet		
Sarah, Daughter of John Balch	"	18 <sup>th</sup> ,
Fanny, Daughter of Cornelius Gould	Nov.	1 <sup>st</sup> ,
Eunice, Daughter of Zaccheus Gould	"	29 <sup>th</sup> ,
Mary, Daughter of N. Cleaveland Esq <sup>r</sup>	May	9 <sup>th</sup> , 1802.
Anna	}	Daughters of Thom <sup>s</sup> Foster
Lydia		
Sally		
Phebe		
Polly		
Robert, Son of Robert Lake	"	
Hannah, Daughter of Robert Lake	"	
Hitty	}	Daughters of Jonas Merriam
Polly		
Thomas Wendal Durant, a boy indented til of age to Jonas Merriam		August 15 <sup>th</sup> ,
	"	"
Mary Ann, Daughter of Aschel Huntington	Sept <sup>r</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup> ,
Mrs. Lucy Friend &	Nov <sup>r</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup> ,
Sally Friend, Daughter of Lucy	"	"
Richard, Son of John Hood	April	3 <sup>d</sup> , 1803.
Polly, Daughter of Sam <sup>l</sup> Gould	"	10 <sup>th</sup> ,
Samuel White, Son of Simon Gould	June	12 <sup>th</sup> ,
Jonas, Son of Jonas Merriam & Mehitable his Wife	"	"
Ruthy	}	Children of John Perkins & Sarah his Wife
Hezekiah Balch		
Rebecca		
Robert		
Mary		Sept <sup>r</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup> ,
Jane Searl, Daughter of Thom <sup>s</sup> Tenny		
John & Ebenezer	}	twin Sons of Nehemiah Cleaveland Esq <sup>r</sup> March 12 <sup>th</sup> , [1804.]
Benjamin Conant, son of David Perkins		
Jacob Perkins, son of Jacob Towne 3 <sup>d</sup>	May	13 <sup>th</sup> ,
John, a son of John Perkins	"	27 <sup>th</sup> ,
John Capen, Son of John Balch	June	16 <sup>th</sup> , 1805.
George, Son of John Hood	"	23 <sup>d</sup> ,
Elijah, Son of Simon Gould	Oct <sup>r</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> ,
Elijah Perkins, Son of Zebulon Perkins	Decemb <sup>r</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> ,
Elisha Lord, son of Nehemiah Cleaveland Esq <sup>r</sup>	May	7 <sup>th</sup> , 1806.
John, a son of John Wright deceased	Sept <sup>r</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> ,
Mary, daughter of Jacob Towne 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Oct <sup>r</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup> ,
Jonathan Knowlton, son of Thos Perkins Ju <sup>r</sup>	July	16 <sup>th</sup> , 1807.
George, son of John Hood	July	5 <sup>th</sup> ,





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 9

Nehemiah, son of John Balch		
Ezra, son of Jacob Towne Junior	June	12, 1808.
Thorndike Osgood, son of Simon Gould	Oct <sup>r</sup>	23 <sup>d</sup> ,
Lucy, Daughter of John Hood	Sept <sup>r</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup> , 1809.
Baptized the Children of Daniel Wildes & Eunni[c]e his Wife By the following names, viz :—		
Joshua		
Sally		
Thomas		
Israel		
Mehitable	Nov <sup>r</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup> ,
William Porter, son of Amos Gallop	Sept.	30 <sup>th</sup> ,
Stephen Perkins, son of Edward Hammond Lately deceased	Sept <sup>r</sup>	1811.
Sarah Manning, adult, Daughter of John Manning esq. of Ipswich	Jan.	31 <sup>st</sup> , 1812.

Reverend Asahel Huntington died April 22<sup>d</sup> 1813, aged 52 years, one month and five days, "after having served as the affectionate, faithful and beloved Pastor of the Church of Christ in Topsfield twenty two years and five months—his praise was in the Churches."

Elisabeth	} Children of Samuel Todd	July	17 <sup>th</sup> , 1815.
Lydia			
Samuel			
Alethea			
Louisa, adult daughter of Jonas Warren		Sept <sup>r</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup> , 1817.
Caleb Kimball, adult		Nov <sup>r</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup> ,
Sarah	} Children of Jonas & Sarah Warren	"	23 <sup>d</sup> ,
Parker			
Harriet			
Charles			
Lucinda			
Adeline			
John Peabody jun. adult		May	31 <sup>st</sup> , 1818.
Widow Elisabeth Waite			
Augustine Symonds son of John Peabody jun.			
William	} Children of Widow Elisabeth Waite		
Elizabeth			



# 10 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Lydia Bradstreet, daughter of Nehemiah & Lydia  
Perkins

John, son of Samuel and Lydia Todd June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1817.

Rebecca Gallup, adult Nov<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>, 1818.

Sarah  
Caroline } Children of Thomas Perkins jun. and  
Elisabeth } Sarah his wife  
Thomas }

" "

by Rev<sup>d</sup> Isaac Bramin

Benjamin Franklin } Children of Benjamin and Re-  
Rebecca }becca Perkins  
Lucy Ann }

Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1819.

"The town having concurred with the chh. in the ap-  
pointment of the day for the ordination of Rodney Gove  
Dennis, an ecclesiastical Council met at Topsfield on  
Wednesday, Oct. 4, 1820, agreeably to letters missive  
from the chh. in Topsfield, requesting them to assist in  
ordaining Mr. Rodney Gove Dennis over them as their  
Pastor.

Present	Pastors	Delegates
Chh. in Hambleton, ——— ———		Br. Whipple,
South Chh. Ipswich, Rev. Dr. Dana,		Br. Day,
First Chh. Do, Rev. David Kimball,		Br. Moses Lord,
First Chh. Danvers, Rev. Dr. Wadsworth,		Br. Putnam,
Sec. Chh. Rowley, Rev. Isaac Braman,		Br. Adams,
First Chh. Boxford, Rev. David Briggs,		Br. Perley,
Chh. in N. Ipswich,		
N. H.,	Rev. Richard Hall,	——— ———
Chh. in Newbury-		
port, ——— ———		Br. Pettengal,
Chh. in Middleton, ——— ———		Br. Symonds,

The council being organized, the Rev. Joseph Dana,  
D.D., was chosen moderator, & the Rev. I. Braman,  
Scribe.





The moderator addressed the throne of grace. Documents were then read testifying the call from the chh. & people in Topsfield to Mr. Dennis, & his answer in the affirmative to the same. The candidate then being examined, it was voted unanimously, that the council are satisfied of the regularity of the proceedings of the chh. & Town relative to the settlement of Mr. D. & also with his qualifications as to piety & knowledge for the sacred ministry; & that they will proceed to ordain him as soon as may be over the chh. & people in this place.

Voted, That Rev. Mr. Brainan make in. prayer.

Rev. Mr. Hall preach the sermon.

Rev. Dr. Dana make ordaining prayer.

Rev. Dr. Wadsworth [make] charge.

Rev. Mr. Briggs [give] Rt. Hand.

Rev. Mr. Kimball address the chh.

& conclude by prayer.

\* Voted, to proceed at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 o'clock."

Calvin	} Children of William & Elizabeth Co- nant		
Elizabeth			
Ruth			
Louis		Nov.	19, 1820.
<hr/>			
Nehemiah, son of Nehemiah & Lydia Perkins,		April	29, 1821.
Mary, daughter of Rodney G. & Mary Dennis,		Jan.	20, 1822.
Mary, infant daughter of Saml & Lydia Todd,		March	3,
Mary Elizabeth, infant daughter of John & Mary Perkins,			
Abigail, infant daughter of Thomas & Sarah Perkins,		Nov.	10,
Phebe Wildes, infant daughter of Nehemiah & Lydia Perkins,		Dec.	22,
Theodosia Dennis, infant daughter of R. G. & M. P. Dennis,		May	18, 1823.
Elizabeth Ashby, infant daughter of Benja. & Rebecca Perkins,		June	1,

\* No further record appears of the proceedings of the ordination.



## 12 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Thomas Emerson, infant child of James & Lydia Stearns of Salem,	June	15, 1823.
Ruth Gould, daughter of Joseph Gould,	July	13,
Ruth Gould, infant daughter of Dea. Saml. & Lydia Todd,	Aug.	10,
John Brown, child of Capt. John & ——— Peabody,	July	4, 1824.
Jesse Appleton & Jane Abigail, infant children of R. G. & M. P. Dennis,	"	18,
David Peabody, son of John & Lydia Peabody,	Aug.	15,
Austin, infant child of Nehemiah & Lydia Perkins,	"	"
Benjamin, infant child of Sam'l & Lydia Todd,	Dec.	26,
Mary Jane, infant daughter of Thomas & Sarah Perkins,	July	10, 1825.
Eunice Cummings, infant daughter of William and Elizabeth Conant, [Lyndebrook]	"	"
Rodney, infant child of R. G. & M. P. Dennis,	April	2, 1826.
Moses Bradstreet, infant child of Nehemiah & Lydia Perkins	Aug.	20,
Mrs. Eliza, wife of Mr. Elisha Perkins Jr.	Oct.	1,
Edward Augustus, infant child of Benja. & Rebecca Perkins,	May	13, 1827.
Joel Rogers, son of Mr. John Peabody,	July	22,
Josiah, son of late Capt. Eben'r Peabody	"	"
Hiram Kneeland, and Cynthia Hobbs, and Rhoda Cummings, children of Mr. George & Mrs. Mary Hobbs,	"	29,
Joseph, infant child of R. G. Dennis,	April	13, 1828.
Ruth Lamson, infant child of Nehemiah & Lydia Perkins,	"	"
Mehitable, infant child of Dea. S. Todd	May	4,
Esther Wildes, infant daughter of Jeremiah Stone, M.D.	May	3, 1829.

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Rev. Rodney G. Dennis upon his own request was dismissed from the pastoral office in Topsfield by a Council of Churches held May 6, 1829. The relations existing between Church and pastor were dissolved on May 18, 1829.





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 13

Edward Parker, infant son of Rev<sup>d</sup> Rodney G.

Dennis and Mary P. Dennis was baptised by

the father of the child

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1830.

Attest; N. CLEAVELAND, Clerk.

Rev. James F. McEwen formerly settled over the Church in Bridport, Vermont, was installed pastor of the Church in Topsfield on May 5, 1830. Nine churches were represented by pastor and delegate in the ecclesiastical council.

William Gunnison on his own account	Sept.	5, 1830.
Huldah Pike (wife of Benja. P. Jr.) her own account	"	"
Susan Cummings Jr. her own account	"	"
Alpheus Justus Pike & Alethina Philena Pike, on account of Huldah, wife of Benja Pike Jr.	Octr.	24,
William Bradstreet on his own account	Nov <sup>r</sup>	7,
Ebenzer Peabody " " " "	"	"
Perley Balch Jr. " " " "	"	"
Benjamin Howe " " " "	"	"
Thomas Furgison " " " "	"	"
Abigail Wildes (wife of Humphrey W) her own account	"	"
Susan Cummings (widow) on her own account	"	"
Priscilla Bradstreet (widow) on her own account	"	"
Mary Perkins (Dau. of Elisha) on her own account	"	"
Huldah W. Perkins (Dau. of Elijah) on her own account	"	"
William Thomas Gunnison	} Children baptized on account of their father W <sup>m</sup> Gunnison	Dec <sup>r</sup> 2,
Elisha Washington Gunnison		
Mary Ann Gunnison		
John Harrington Gunnison		
Daniel Lungreen Gunnison		
Lydia Smith Gunnison	}	2, 1831.
Lucy Elizabeth Gunnison		
William Rea on his own account	Jan <sup>y</sup>	2, 1831.
Israel Rea Jr. " " " "	"	"



# 14 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Dudley Perkins on his own account	Jan <sup>y</sup>	2, 1831.
Amos Perkins Jr. " " " "	"	"
Lucy Peabody (Dau. of Widow Mercy) her own account	"	"
Mary Ann Peabody (Dau. same) her own account	"	"
Mary Cook her own account	"	"
Sarah Brown " " " "	"	"
Eunice K. Adams (wife of Moody) her own account	"	"
Mary Ann Balch (wife of Nehemiah) her own account	"	"
Dolly Pike (Dau. of Benja.) her own account	"	"
Eunice Balch (Dau. of Perley) " " "	"	"
Abigail Perkins (Dau. of Elijah) " " "	"	"
Bartholomew Conant on his own account	March	6,
John Lamson " " " "	"	"
John Conant Jr. " " " "	"	"
Benjamin Pike Jr. " " " "	"	"
Nathaniel Wells " " " "	"	"
Humphrey Balch " " " "	"	"
Sarah Balch (wife of Perley) her own account	"	"
Mercy Rea (wife of John) " " "	"	"
Eunice Bradstreet (wife of W <sup>m</sup> ) her own account	"	"
Mercy Peabody (Dau. of Wid. Mercy) her own account	"	"
Elizabeth Peabody (Dau. of Wid. Mercy) her own account	"	"
Porter Bradstreet on his own account	May	1,
Nancy Towne (wife of Dan <sup>l</sup> ) her own account	"	"
Mehitable Br[a]dstreet (wife of Porter) her own account	"	"
Eunice Stiles her own account	"	"
Lucy Gile " " " "	"	"
Eliza Bradstreet (Daughter of Dudley) her own account	"	"
Sarah Bradstreet (Daughter of Dudley) her own account	"	"
Ruth Rea (Daughter of Israel) her own account	"	"
Abigail Bradstreet (Daughter of William) her own account	"	"
Sarah Bradstreet (wife of John) her own account	July	3,
Asahel Huntington Todd, on account of Father	"	17,
Dea. Sam <sup>l</sup> Todd	"	
Caleb Kimball Perkins, on account of Parents Nathaniel & Judith Perkins	"	"





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 15

Josiah Bridge Lamson	}	Children on account of their father John Lamson	Augt	7, 1831.
Alathea Huntington Lamson				
Mercy Perkins Lamson				
Mary Ann Lamson				
Priscilla Augusta Lamson				
John Augustus Lamson	}	Children on account of their parents Dudley & Sarah Perkins	"	"
Elbridge Fiske Perkins				
Rodney Dennis Perkins				
Lydia Phippen Perkins				
Dudly Quincy Perkins				
Mary Elizabeth Perkins	}	Children on account of their Mother Phebe, the wife of Silas Lake	"	"
Ann Maria Lake				
John Batchelder Lake				
Silas Page Lake				
Robert Channell on his own account			Sept <sup>r</sup>	4,
Hannah Balch (Dau. of David B.) her own account			"	"
Sally Balch (Dau. of David B.)		" " "	"	"
Elizabeth Cynthia Andrews, on account of her mother the wife of Joseph Andrews			"	18,
Elizabeth Day Bradstreet, on account of her mother widow Priscilla Bradstreet			"	"
Ruth Esther Gould Perkins, on account of her Mother Lydia Perkins, wife of Nehemiah Per- kins,				October 16,
John Dwinneel	}	Children on account of their mother Louisa Dwinneel wife of John D.	"	23,
David Holt Dwinneel				
Sarah Perkins Dwinneel				
Louisa Richards Dwinneel				
Hiphzibah Sophia Dwinneel				
Esther Melitable Dwinneel				
Willard Adolphus Dwinneel				
Priscilla Lamson (wife of John) on her own ac- count			Nov <sup>r</sup>	6,
Hannah Perkins (wife of David) on her own ac- count			"	"
Lois Moore (wife of Thomas) on her own account			"	"
Abigail W. Kimball (wife of Benj <sup>a</sup> ) on her own ac- count			"	"
Abigail Wildes (Daughter of Humphry) on her own account			"	"
Harriet Towne (Daughter of Jacob 3 <sup>d</sup> ) on her own account			"	"
Israel Gallup on his own account			Jan'y	1, 1832.
Abraham T. Pierce " "			"	"



# 16 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Richard Phillips	on his own account	Jany	1, 1832.
Joseph Phillips	" "	"	"
Betsy Gould (Dau. of Joseph)	on her own account	"	"
Mary J. Phillips (Dau. of Richard)	" "	"	"
Sarah Phillips (Dau. of Richard)	" "	"	"
Mehi[t]able Balch (Dau. of Perley)	" "	"	"
Lydia Peabody (wife of John)	" "	"	"
Mary Cross	" "	"	"
Mary Munday (wife of W <sup>m</sup> )	" "	"	"
Elizabeth Gallup (wife of Israel)	" "	"	"
Lydia B. Emerson (widow)	" "	"	"
Harriet J. Emerson (Dau. of Widow L.)	on her own account	"	"
Lois R. Carter (wife of Sylvester)	on her own account	"	"
Lydia Bradstreet (Dau. of Cap <sup>t</sup> . Dudley)	on her own account	"	"
Austiss P. Balch (Dau. of David)	on her own account	"	"
Benjamin P. Adams	on his own account	March	4,
Eunice B. Wells	on her own account	"	"
Mary Ann Cummings (Daughter of Widow Susan C.)	on her own account	"	"
Sally M. Munday, Daughter of W <sup>m</sup> ,	her own account	"	"
Betsey Gould (Daughter of Andrew G.)	her own account	"	"
Benjamin Adams	on his own account	May	6,
Lydia Smith	on her own account	"	"
Lacy M. Wilkins	" " " "	"	"
Elizabeth C. Wilkins	" " " "	"	"
Gustavus Dorman Pike	on account of his parents		
Benj <sup>a</sup> . Jr. & Huldah Pike		July	1,
Abigail Kimball McEwen,	on account of her parents		
(by adoption) Rev <sup>d</sup> Jas. F. & Harriet C. McEwen		"	"
Frederick Perley	on his own account	"	"
Sarah Abigail Perkins	} on account of their mother		
David Perkins		"	15,
Mary Ann Whiting Moore,	on account of her mother		
Lois Moore the wife of Thomas M.		Sept.	16,
Edwin D. Sanborn	on his own account	July	7, 1833.
Arner Averell	on her own account	"	"
Benjamin Flavius Pike,	on account of his parents		
Benj <sup>a</sup> Jr. & Huldah Pike		"	28,





# BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 17

Dudley Bradstreet	} On account of their mother Sarah Bradstreet, the wife of John Bradstreet	October 20, 1833.
John Bradstreet		
Israel Rea Bradstreet		
Thomas Franklin Ferguson on account of his parents Thos. & Huldah Ferguson		" "
Caroline L. Hart on her own account		Jan <sup>y</sup> 5, 1834.
Mary Ann Perkins on account of her mother, Hannah, the wife of David Perkins		July 13,
Susan Alzea Stone on account of her father Doctr. Jer. Stone		" 20,
Arathusa Elizabeth Pike on account of her parents Benja. Jr. & Huldah Pike		Augt. 24,
Ebenezer Peabody on account of his parents Ebenezer & Abigail Peabody		June 21, 1835.
Edwin Augustine Peabody on account of his father Augustine S. Peabody		" "
Jacob Symonds Peabody on account of his father Augustine S. Peabody		July 24, 1836.
George Winslow Dwinneel, on account of his mother Louisa, the wife of John Dwinneel		Octr. 23,
Moses Wildes Stone on account of his father Doctr. Jeremiah Stone		Nov <sup>r</sup> 20,
Josiah Peabody Perkins	} on account of their parents Dudly & Sarah Perkins	Septr. 17, 1837.
Samuel Webster Perkins		
Edward Hammond Ferguson		
Ruth Abigail Ferguson	} on account of parents Thomas & Huldah Ferguson	" "
Harriet Elizabeth Bathink on her own account		
Lucy Foster on her own account		Septr. 2,
Elias Putnam Peabody on account of his Parents Ebenezer & Abigail Peabody		" 9,
George Cowls Perkins on account of his Parents Nathaniel Jr. & Lucy Perkins		" "
Charlotte W. Taplin on her own account		Jan <sup>y</sup> 6, 1839.
Betsey Perkins, wife of Amos P. on her own account		March 3,
Betsey Gould wife of Tho' G. on her own account		" "
Hannah P. Bradstreet dau. of Porter, on her own account		" "
Thomas L. Lane on his own account		" "
Robert S. Perkins " " " "		" "
Alva Moulton " " " "		" "
Asa Bradstreet " " " "		May 5,



# 18 BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

Lydia Bradstreet (Dau. of W <sup>m</sup> B) on her own account	May	5, 1839.
Sophia C. Perkins (Dau. of Amos P) on her own account	"	"
Catherine C. Adams on account of her parents Benja <sup>a</sup> P. & Mary Ann Adams	"	12,
Rosamond P. Ferguson on account of her parents Thomas & Huldah Ferguson	"	"
Thomas S. Peabody on account of his father Augustine S. Peabody	"	"
William G. Peabody } on account of their mother	"	"
George W. Peabody } Almira the wife of William Peabody		
Mehetabel F. Adams wife of Benja <sup>a</sup> F. Adams on her own account	July	7,
Frederick Wallace Perley } on account of parents	Aug <sup>t</sup>	25,
Greenleaf Proctor Perley } Frederick & Almira P. Perley		
Susan Ellen Perley	Septem <sup>r</sup>	1,
Emerson P. Gould on his own account	"	"
Jonathan P. Gould " " " "	"	"
Ariel H. Gould " " " "	"	"
Moses J. Currier " " " "	"	"
Henry A. Merriam " " " "	"	"
James E. Gifford " " " "	"	"
Elizabeth Simonds on her own account	"	"
Mary A. Gould " " " "	"	"
Sally F. Gould " " " "	"	"
Ann Gould " " " "	"	"
Ruth P. Batchelder " " " "	"	"
Mary E. Munday " " " "	"	"
Almira P. Perley " " " "	"	"
Isaiah M. Small " his " "	Nov.	3,
John A. Gould " " " "	"	"
Ruth Lake " her " "	"	"
Eliza G. Adams " " " "	"	"
Elizabeth A. Gould " " " "	"	"
Mary Ann E. Coburn on her own account	"	"
Catherine K. Wells on her own account	July	5, 1840.
Lucy H. Lake " " " "	"	"
Huldah Florilla Pike } on account of their par-	February	16,
Ithamah Evandah Pike } ents Benjamin & Huldah		
Amanda Dolly Pike } Pike		
Abby Wildes Wright on account of her parents John & Abigail Wright	May	17,





BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD. 19

Minerva Achsah Pike on account of her parents

Benj<sup>a</sup> & Huldah Pike

February 14, 1841

Lucy Abby Peabody on account of her parents Ebe-

nezer. & Abigail Peabody

April 18,

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1841. May 5. "The pastoral relation of the Rev<sup>d</sup> James F. McEwen to this chh. closed agreeably to the result of the Council of February last; the Parish having paid him his salary, & two hundred & fifty dollars of the sum awarded him, & he having relinquished one hundred dollars."

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